

THE GATEWAY

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Students to form disaster relief group

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
News Editor

Many of the fishermen in Yokananth Sekar's hometown in India are homeless or dead after tsunami waves decimated their homes on Boxing Day.

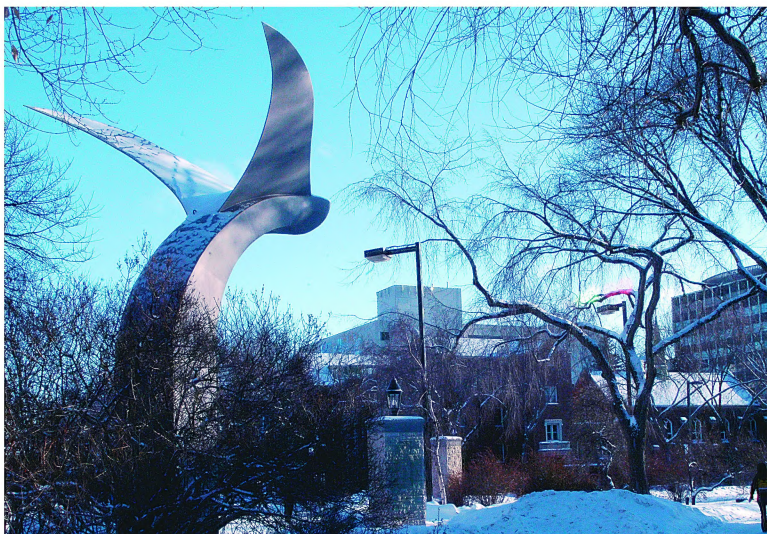
Since then, many of the uprooted townspeople have taken refuge in the school where Sekar's father works.

The University of Alberta PhD student explained that in addition to his father, his wife and five-month-old son are also living in his hometown located in the Nagapattinam district of southern India.

Much to his relief, his family is all right, but much of the community has not been so lucky.

This district was one of the worst-hit areas in India after the 26 December underwater earthquake in Southeast Asia created massive tidal waves that left 150 000 dead.

PLEASE SEE TSUNAMI • PAGE 2



LEAHNE FONG

WINTER IS HERE After a mild November and December the new year has brought in the cold.



LEAHNE FONG

FREE FOOD Students brave the cold for free hot dogs during tuition week.

SU rallies against tuition hike

NICOLE TOMLINSON
News Writer

The U of A Students' Union is kicking off the new year with a series of events to rally students and raise awareness about the rising cost of tuition.

Yesterday, the U of A's athletic board provided food, drink and entertainment to students in SUB as a part of the week's festivities.

"The event is about athletes showing our appreciation for the students that come out and support us throughout the year," explained Leo Carroll,

the Vice-President (Internal) of the U of A Athletic Board.

"It's also an awareness campaign in conjunction with tuition week to make students more aware about rising tuition costs," he said.

The original concept of the event, Touchdown for Tuition, was a flag football game in Quad. Donations would be collected based on how many touchdowns were scored.

The money raised was intended to assist one lucky student with their tuition costs.

PLEASE SEE TUITION • PAGE 4

English department proposes half-year course for first-year students

TASNEEM KARBAN
News Writer

After years of funding shortages for first-year English courses, the department of English might offer mandatory half-year, and not full-year, English courses for all first-year students without English majors.

Dr Garrett Epp, English department chair, explained that the science dean's suggestion to reduce the English requirement into a half-year course in addition to revisions to the Bachelor of Arts core program was part of the "constellation of forces" that motivated Epp to create the proposal to help deal with financial problems.

He explained that approximately a third of first-year English courses are taught by sessional instructors, while tenured professors teach 15 per cent.

"Sessional instructors work for eight months and then they spend four months on their own. They don't know for sure how many sections they will get to teach the following year. It's really an unjust, nasty situation," remarked Epp.

Lisa McLaughlin, SU vice-president (academic), expressed concern that the lack of funding is threatening the quality of education for undergradu-

ates at the University, but stated she was glad the U of A is reviewing the BA core program. She added that the funding problems reflect the effect of the provincial government's insufficient investment in universities.

"This is merely a byproduct of a larger crisis facing this institution, namely the lack of funding being directed towards the faculty of arts, and the humanities in particular."

CAMERON LEWIS,
SU ARTS COUNCILOR

"[The proposal] is another example of the negative impact of inadequate provincial funding for universities. At the same time, the U of A has to re-examine some of its spending priorities as well," said McLaughlin.

Currently, 4160 students are taking first-year English courses, and if Epp's proposal is implemented, it would

save the cost of running 15 full-year introductory English course equivalents and \$165 000 in sessional rates.

"It's a significant savings in terms of the current arts deficit, but if the arts deficit goes higher it wouldn't help much at all. I'm not just trying to help the arts budget; I've been told I have to cut back," Epp explained.

SU arts councilor Cameron Lewis was disappointed by the need for the proposal.

"This is merely a by-product of a larger crisis facing this institution, namely the lack of funding being directed towards the faculty of arts, and the humanities in particular," remarked Lewis.

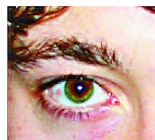
Epp explained that the other alternative would be to increase class sizes and make instructors teach more classes. This strategy would limit student access to teachers outside the classroom, a diminished completion of research, and cutbacks to graduate student supervision. Epp's proposal involves capping class sizes at 25 to boost the quality of the shorter courses.

Epp said the proposed writing-intensive requirement in the BA program would allow these students to take a half-year course in another discipline.

PLEASE SEE ENGLISH • PAGE 4

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12 How did you spend your Christmas break? If you're anything like our intrepid Josh Jenner, it likely involved the infamous "Christmas bender." Read all about it in Opinion.

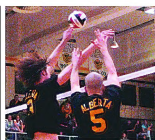
From the archives

The Gateway tried and failed to gain autonomy from the Students' Union. After submitting a petition with the necessary 2500 signatures for a referendum, 70 were discounted in place of the Gateway's discounted proposal the SU crafted its own referendum question on the subject. Because this new autonomy question was thought of as being an "unfair negotiating tactic" by some councilors it was voted off the election agenda.

2001

Correction!

In volume xciv, issue 25 of the Gateway, published on 11 January 2005, the cover photo was uncredited. Proper creditation is due to Matt Fehner. The Gateway apologizes that Matt is a big, whiny baby who made us do this, even though everyone knew it was him already.



20 The Bears volleyball team will face Saskatchewan this weekend in the Main Gym—which Chris O'Leary says is ready for a name change. Both those stories are in Sports.

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complaints

Comments, concerns, or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be first sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint, it may be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors, beyond that, appeal to the non-partisan Society Ombudsboard. The chair of the Board of Directors and the Ombudsboard can be reached at the address above.

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colophon

THE GATEWAY is created using Macintosh computers, Linux Powerbook 5500 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Times, Helvetica, and Arial. The Gateway's cover paper is the Mantonian. The Gateway's games of choice are Metal Gear Solid 3 and Metroid Prime 2. Also Happy Birthday to me.

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TSUNAMI • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now, after hearing of the devastation of his hometown, Sekar is helping to organize a committee on campus dedicated to the rehabilitation of communities affected by the tsunami disaster.

Sekar, a member of the Indian Students' Association (ISA), is part of a team of international and domestic students collaborating with student associations and the U of A's International Centre in order to raise money for long-term relief in Southeast Asia.

"It's a very long-term process," explained Sekar.

He explained that while immediate aid is needed, working on the long-term health of the community is important.

"We are not sure what we are going to do with the children [of Nagapattinam] who don't have a mother or father. Who is going to take care of their education?"

The campus committee plans to form a charitable organization in order to issue tax receipts for donations, and help victims from this and future disasters.

But, unlike other fundraising endeavours, the committee intends

to develop specific projects rather than give the money to international aid organizations like the Red Cross or CARE.

Contacts in the affected areas will directly manage projects developed by the committee in Edmonton.

Arts student Renuka Fernando, who also volunteers with the committee, has family in Sri Lanka, which was heavily impacted by the tsunami.

"They weren't in the affected areas, but basically because Sri Lanka's such a small country—it's a country with 20 million people—everyone knows everyone, so everyone is somewhat affected," said Fernando.

"It could take two decades before people rebuild, because it's a developing country."

Fernando, like some of the other students on the committee, is also helping organize other smaller committees focused on helping specific countries.

She is a member of Relief Aid for Sri Lanka (RASL), another group formed by Sri Lankan Edmontonians in collaboration with Edmonton's Buddhist Association.

"We're working [to raise money] for a school, because it's something per-



TSUNAMI RELIEF Yohananth Sekar and Renuka Fernando offer their support.

manent and something that everyone can enjoy, and it's education, because education there is free, so it's something all people can access," she said.

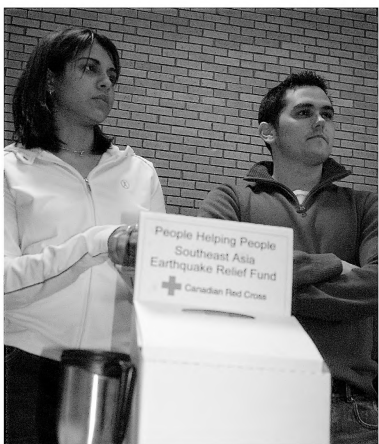
Fernando added that the tsunami victims are receiving a great deal of aid from people across the world presently.

She hopes that the world will continue paying attention to the ongoing

struggles of the developing world beyond the tsunami.

"You go to the grocery store, you go anywhere and you see, 'donate to the tsunami [victims]'. I think it's really a good time for people to get organized and look at the issues [of the developing world]. We living in Canada don't see the realities of developing countries."

Political science department fundraises for tsunami



LENDING A HAND Alya Nazari and Luke Morrison staff the Red Cross table.

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
News Editor

While many U of A students and staff were sleeping off Christmas merriment, millions of people in Southeast Asia were reeling from one of the worst natural disasters in recent decades.

The tsunami disaster has provoked many communities worldwide to donate funds to the affected areas, and the U of A political science department has followed suit.

"I felt very strongly that we should do something as a university, first of all. One thing I was a little bit concerned about, was that our University has not taken the initiative to do something officially, at the University president's level," said political science professor Dr W Andy Knight.

As the U of A has clout in the community, it has potential to raise money for the victims, Knight said.

He noted that the president of the University of British Columbia released a public statement in regards to the disaster shortly after it hit, but that the U of A didn't do the same.

However, he recognized that due to the holidays much of the U of A community was not on campus and was naturally not prepared to react when

the disaster struck.

Believing that fundraising action needed to be taken at the U of A, and knowing that a number of his students are from the affected regions, Knight began contacting faculty members and political science students to initiate a fundraising effort.

Since Knight had previously established contacts in the Red Cross and the humanitarian aid organization CARE Canada as part of a project on the effects of war on children, the department has chosen to raise funds for these two groups.

A table manned by the Political Science Undergraduate Association (PSUA) and the Model United Nations Club was set up on Monday to solicit donations from students in the busy Tory Business Atrium.

"A lot of people in the department were saying that they've wanted to give a few bucks, but they haven't had the opportunity," PSUA President Luke Morrison commented on Monday.

Fundraising volunteer and political science student Alya Nazari was happy with the response of students and staff.

"It just reflects the Canadian cultural values and morals in terms of helping people in distress," she said.



STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by Natalie Climenhaga and
Caitlin Crawshaw

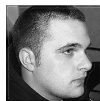
Many aid organizations
are collecting money
to help victims of the
tsunami in Southeast
Asia.

Have you donated
money to a relief fund?



Heli Salonen
Phys Ed II

[I didn't donate here], but in Finland I donated to the Red Cross. I think they need some help because [the victims] have lost everything that they had.



Liam McClellan
Arts II

No, I haven't. I want to do that but I haven't had the time. I know that's a pretty lame excuse but yeah, I will donate.



Jennifer Rolfs
Arts IV

I have not donated money to the tsunami, but my parents have and the company my dad works for has. But as much as I would like to, I just spent \$400 on books and I need books. I know they need money but I want to graduate.



Kyle Shukailik
Arts I

Yeah, I have donated. I'm pretty sure it was with Red Cross. [It's] absolutely [important to donate] especially before [important when the government was going to double donations. I donated ten dollars so I like to think I sent twenty dollars over.]



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN LAZAR

CRASH! Snowboarders and skiers need to exercise caution, study warns.

Snowboarders and skiers facing greater risk: study

CHLOÉ PEDRO
News Writer

A trip to the mountains can be one advantage to the chilly winter months, but a recent study shows that an increasing number of people hitting the slopes are winding up in the hospital.

Dr. Brent Hagel of the Alberta Centre for Injury Control at the U of A has compiled data from ski resorts in Québec from the 1995/96 season until the 1999/2000 season comparing injury rates for both snowboarders and skiers.

Over the five-year period, the study found that there was a 50 per cent increase in head and neck injuries for snowboarders and that the highest rate of injury was among the youngest groups, especially males.

"In general, adolescents [and young adults] are labeled as a risk-taking group, more so than very young children and older adults. There may be relationships between our data and those types of risk-taking activities that the demographic of the snowboarders represent," said Hagel.

Stephen Dunn, secretary of the U of A Ski Club, says that skiing and snowboarding are becoming more challenging sports with the proliferation of terrain parks, areas designed for doing jumps.

"The extreme nature of the sport has grown a lot and is pushing people. [Without this type of progression], either sport, be it skiing or snowboarding, would be a dead-breed kind of activity," said Dunn.

The study, which was recently published in the journal *Epidemiology*, determined that each sport resulted in specific high-risk injuries.

"The relationship between injury rate and skiing and snowboarding changed depending on what body region we were looking at. [For] head and neck, upper extremity, arms and trunk injuries, generally the rates were higher for snowboarders, but when

we looked at just lower extremities, everything from the pelvis down, we found that skiers were at a higher risk," said Hagel.

Hagel explained that most snowboarding injuries are caused when a rider braces the impact of the fall with their arms, injuring their upper body. For skiers, injuries are usually caused by torsion in the lower body. The injuries commonly associated with skiing or snowboarding reflect the different natures of the two activities.

"I think risk plays a role in any sport that you do. I don't really see it as a deterrent."

STEPHEN DUNN,
SECRETARY, U OF A SKI CLUB

With the two sports becoming more extreme, regulations are increasing and it's now mandatory to wear a helmet in almost every mountain terrain park.

"It's a rarity now to see people not wearing a helmet, whereas before it was a rarity to see people wearing a helmet," said Dunn.

Hagel advocates the use of helmets and wrist guards, especially for people with little or no experience with snowboarding, and encourages beginners to take lessons.

"I think there needs to be proper supervision for people who are starting out," said Hagel.

The possible personal safety risks associated with snowboarding and skiing haven't seemed to affect the popularity of either sport.

"I think risk plays a role in any sport that you do. I don't really see it as a deterrent," said Dunn.

Despite the results of the study, Dunn says that there are little or no injuries on the club's trips to the mountains besides sore muscles.

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STUDENTS' UNION PRINT CENTRE

Hole in Alberta's heart

Obituary for Lois Hole, 1933-2005

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
News Writer

The Honourable Lois Elsa Hole, beloved lieutenant-governor and former U of A chancellor, died of stomach cancer at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton on 6 January, 2005. She was 71.

Mrs Hole was appointed to the position of lieutenant-governor on 10 February, 2000 after a lifelong contribution to education and the arts, for which she was became a member of the Order of Canada in 1999.

Known for her kindness and hugs, Mrs Hole's death came as a great loss to all Albertans. Countless charities benefited from Mrs Hole's generosity and desire to help those in need. As a result, numerous community programs were begun in Mrs Hole's honour, including the Lois Hole Library Legacy Program (2002) and the Lois Hole Women's Hospital

expansion at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton (2004).

Born in Buchanan, Saskatchewan, Mrs Hole moved to Edmonton in her early teens and graduated from Strathcona Composite High School. A lifelong supporter of education, Mrs Hole was first elected as a trustee for the Sturgeon School Division in 1967. From 1972 to 1983, Mrs Hole served as a member of the Athabasca University Governing Council and in 1998 was elected as chancellor of the University of Alberta.

Mrs Hole was also a prominent business woman, and her avid passion for gardening led to Hole's Greenhouses and Gardens, Ltd in St Albert, which she ran with her late husband Mr Ted Hole. Author of many Canadian best-selling gardening books, Mrs Hole wrote her memoir *I'll Never Marry a Farmer* in 1999.

She is survived by her two sons, Bill and Jim, and three grandchildren.

English suffers from cutbacks

ENGLISH • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In McLaughlin's view, smaller class sizes and writing across disciplines could help students develop integral comprehension and communication skills. But she pointed out that it is generally understood that students entering university should already have well-developed communication skills. English courses should build upon these skills, in her view.

"I'm not sure that we should be relying on the English program and particular first-year courses to make

up for deficiencies in the K-12 system," said McLaughlin.

Many have responded negatively to the proposal since it was made public.

While there are concerns about the department cutting back on a program essential to a university education, others accuse Epp of not fighting to save the program. Epp, however, views the reaction as a good thing.

"If this controversy only manages to make people aware of what is at stake and that [first-year English] is an important course, that's a good thing."

Tuition week offers money giveaways and free food

TUITION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Although the frigid winter weather made the game impossible, the Athletic Board still received a substantial amount of donations, which they gave away by drawing names.

"We have \$950 that we are giving away for sure, and we also have prize contributions from Converse Canada, United Cycle, and various U of A sports teams," Carroll said.

Two athletes from the men's volleyball team and the Pandas hockey coach showcased their musical talent by performing on SUB stage as well.

Students' Union President Jordan Blatz said he was satisfied with the week's events, and the involvement of the Athletics Board.

"We are really happy to see another group on campus that is taking the initiative to organize an event to build awareness about tuition on campus and to get students involved," he explained.

Tuition week will continue with a student rally at Celebration Plaza today at 3pm, and a free breakfast for students on Friday from 7:30am to 9:30am.

Additionally, the tuition debate begins at 8am on Friday in University Hall Council Chambers, and will be followed by the Board of Governors ruling on the proposal to raise tuition by the maximum amount allowed for the 2005/06 academic year. International students will be watching closely, as international tuition could be raised by 23.5 per cent.



Information SERVICES

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Past Exam Listings

Housing Listings

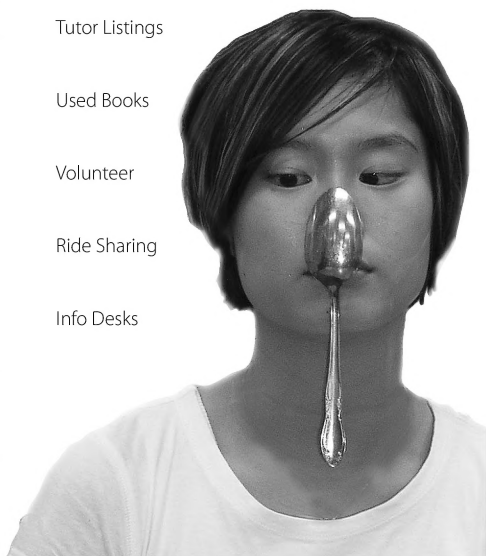
Tutor Listings

Used Books

Volunteer

Ride Sharing

Info Desks



Professor creates high-tech emissions solution

CASSIE BROWN
News Writer

A discovery by a U of A researcher may cut Alberta's natural gas emissions—which comprise a large proportion of the province's air pollution—by as much as 87 per cent.

Dr Richard Hayes, a professor of materials and chemical engineering, recently published a paper outlining a new means of converting natural gas or methane produced by the oil and gas industries into carbon dioxide.

"The problem with methane is its high global-warming potential," said Hayes.

"It's a greenhouse gas that is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide in terms of its ability to cause climate change and global warming."

Essentially, this means that the 1.8 million tons of methane released into the atmosphere in Alberta each year contribute significantly more to climate change than would the same amount of carbon dioxide emissions.

"People are generally surprised to hear that 50 per cent of emissions from the oil and gas sector are not carbon dioxide, but methane emissions."

Although methane is piped from oil and gas wells to markets, there are many instances where oil and gas producers don't build transportation infrastructure for the gas. In these cases it is either flared or released into the environment. Additionally, methane can leak from pipelines and other equipment into the environment.

Dr Sid Carlson of the Centre for Applied Business Research in Energy and the Environment at the U of A school of business points out that this is an important source of methane emissions, but not the most high profile.



HARMFUL EMISSION Dr Richard Hayes can convert methane to carbon dioxide.

"Methane is of more concern in the agriculture sector and in landfill operations," he explained.

By converting methane to carbon dioxide, oil and gas companies would reduce the global warming potential of the gas by a factor of 23.

"The converters we would build function in a similar way to the catalytic converters on a car," Hayes explains.

"Harmful emissions are changed into less harmful ones."

While methane accounts for 19 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions in Canada—far less than carbon dioxide's 64 per cent—cutting methane emissions will have a more immediate effect on the environment, said Trevor Murdoch of the Canadian Institute for Climate Studies.

While carbon dioxide emitted has a life cycle of 100 years, methane dissipates within ten years, allowing the Earth to benefit from its absence sooner.

However, Murdoch emphasized that reducing methane emissions, while important for beginning to combat climate change, is not the final solution for the emissions problem. He warned that the impact of air pollutants like methane on the Canadian atmosphere will not be easily mitigated.

"We will be facing climate change in Canada whether we curb our emissions or not, but the more we curb our emissions, the more likely the impacts are to have less negative consequences on the economy and on citizens' lives," he said.

Even Hayes is quick to point out that conversion of methane to carbon dioxide is just one step in the process of adapting to the reality of a emissions-intensive global environment.

"This is interim," Hayes said. "It's like grabbing the low-hanging fruit off the tree. In the long run, society must find a way to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions."

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University of Ottawa student newspaper gains independence

Student union makes unanimous decision to set the Fulcrum free

STEPHEN HUI
National Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP)—After months of planning and years of positioning, the University of Ottawa's English-language student newspaper has won its independence.

Editors of the *Fulcrum* watched nervously as the Student Federation's board of administrators voted unanimously, with one abstention, on 9 January to transfer ownership of the paper to the newly created Fulcrum Publishing Society as of 1 May.

"I was shocked that I got before the meeting was telling me that they weren't for it," said Mary Cummins, editor-in-chief, as *Fulcrum* staff gathered at a bar to celebrate.

The 10 000-circulation weekly publication sought separation from the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) to protect its journalistic integrity and take on legal responsibility for its content and finances, production manager Marcus McCann told the board.

"The SFUO-*Fulcrum* relationship, as it stands, is flawed," McCann said.

The current situation, where the paper reports on the SFUO's activities and the SFUO signs editors' paycheques, creates an "inherent conflict of interest," he explained.

To help the *Fulcrum* Publishing Society get on its feet, the student union will buy \$40 000 of advertising credit in the paper—about three

years' worth—as part of the autonomy agreement.

The newspaper has agreed to purchase its assets from the SFUO and it will pay back any debts within three years.

"In the end, no one gets the wrong end of the stick: the *Fulcrum* gets to survive, as the SFUO does. I think it's a fair agreement."

PHIL LABIBERTÉ,
PRESIDENT, STUDENT FEDERATION OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

While a new board of directors—mostly elected by students—will govern the *Fulcrum* Publishing Society, it will continue to collect the paper's \$2.61 per semester student levy and operate out of the same building.

If the *Fulcrum* goes bankrupt or breaches the agreement, its assets will revert back to the SFUO.

Phil Labiberté, president of the SFUO, said at the meeting he had been working with the *Fulcrum* to hammer out the autonomy agreement since last summer.

"In the end, no one gets the wrong end of the stick: the *Fulcrum* gets to survive, as the SFUO does," Labiberté said.

"I think it's a fair agreement."

After lawyers review the autonomy agreement, it will return to the SFUO board for final ratification.

Board members raised concerns about the *Fulcrum*'s financial planning, liability issues and editorial content, during the one hour and 20 minutes of discussion leading up to the vote.

One faculty representative wanted the paper to make a commitment to promote school pride, while Social Vice-President Guillaume Lemeroux complained about the lack of a balance between positive and negative news coverage.

Editors assured the board the hiring of a business manager was already increasing ad revenue, and autonomy would encourage them to put out an even better paper.

The SFUO's decision means the *Fulcrum*, which was founded in 1942, will no longer be one of Canada's largest non-autonomous student newspapers.

The *Fulcrum*'s records show the paper was interested in autonomy as early as 1978. In the '90s, the paper created a publishing board and won its own student levy.

Every year, student papers on campuses across the country win or attempt to gain independence.

Students at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George voted to separate *Over the Edge* from their student union in a November 2004 referendum.

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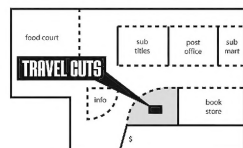


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Tsunamis will come to BC: scientists

BYNA HALLAM
The Martlet

VICTORIA (CUP)—The devastation produced by the tsunamis in southern Asia and eastern Africa has caused many Canadians to look nervously to our long Pacific coastline and ask: could it happen here?

"Yes," confirmed Alison Bird, an earthquake seismologist at the Geological Survey of Canada's office in Sidney, BC.

"We are going to have a megathrust earthquake sometime."

There is evidence that megathrust earthquakes occur every few hundred years. The last one to occur off BC's coast was in 1700, and stress is building for another. It is likely another earthquake will strike within the next few hundred years, according to seismologists. As Bird points out, the more time goes by, the more likely it is one will happen.

"It could be tomorrow. We can't predict it," she said.

In a megathrust earthquake, one tectonic plate slips under another. The province is susceptible because it lies along the area where the Juan de Fuca Plate is slipping under the North American Plate.

Because the plates are so large, these earthquakes are among the world's largest and often result in magnitudes above 9.0 on the Richter scale. These earthquakes often cause undersea landslides and the vertical displacement of water, which in turn trigger tsunamis.

Megathrust earthquakes are characterized by stronger and longer-lasting shaking than smaller earthquakes. There are estimates the shaking in Sumatra during the recent earthquake lasted as long as seven minutes.

According to Bird, shaking inland and farther from the epicentre could last even longer, but would be slower and less sharp.

Following an earthquake far out in the Pacific Ocean, it could take hours for tsunamis waves to reach BC. But the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) predicts some communities along the west coast of Vancouver Island could be hit by huge waves with as little as 15 minutes' warning.

Models show waves as high as five to ten metres—the height of a three- to four-storey building—would crash into the west coast of Vancouver Island, says CHS spokesperson Fred Stephenson. This is similar to the size of waves that did so much damage in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and India.

When the waves reach Victoria, speculated Stephenson, they would likely be between one and four metres high. As the water moved through the Strait of Georgia, the energy would dissipate and the waves would be smaller.

Stephenson maintains the best way for people to prepare for a tsunami is to be educated about the phenomenon.

"Education is going to be the biggest bang for the buck over the next ten or 100 years," he said, noting that while the outer coast of Vancouver Island could have as little as 15 minutes warning of a tsunami, Victoria would have at least 90 minutes.

"If you feel the earth shaking get away [from the coast] and stay away," he said.

Receding water is another sign of a coming tsunami.

Despite the risk of a megathrust earthquake and a tsunami, Bird points out the hazard in BC is more from normal, smaller earthquakes.

"They're a lot more frequent, and they can still be damaging," she said.

BCTSUNAMIS

The coasts of British Columbia and Vancouver Island are no strangers to tsunamis. Like the area where the quake struck off of Indonesia, BC lies along the Ring of Fire, a region known for generating the majority of the world's most powerful earthquakes.

The last great waves to strike the province were a result of a 9.2 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Alaska on 27 March, 1964.

The so-called Good Friday tsunamis raced down BC's coast and hammered Prince Rupert, Tofino, Port Springs Cove, Zeballos and Port Alberni.

Port Alberni, at the end of Alberni Inlet, was devastated. The inlet focused the wave's energy increasing its destructiveness. Fifty-five homes were destroyed, dragged off their foundations and pulled out to sea, and many hundreds were damaged. According to witnesses, cars and boats were tossed around like children's toys by an eight-foot wave travelling at over 385 kilometres per hour.

No one was killed in Canada, although there was millions of dollars in property damage. More than 100 Alaskans perished. The lack of deaths in Port Alberni was mostly due to luck, as tidal flooding preceded the big wave. Many residents took the flooding as a sign of an impending tsunami and fled before the main wave arrived. A provincial government report later stated the province had learned a cheap lesson in the need for disaster planning, civil preparedness and warning systems along its coast.

Patrick Szpak

Massive loss of life could have been avoided: tsunami expert

ROBERT KOTYK
The Manitoban

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Thousands of lives might have been saved in the Asian tsunami disaster if a proper warning system had been in place, according to a tsunami expert and occasional instructor at the University of Manitoba.

"For the Pacific Ocean, absolutely everything is fine. We have warning systems," said Tad Murty, who has written numerous articles about tsunamis throughout his 40 years of research on the subject.

"Cyclones, floods—these things are much more common. ... If we had a warning system almost all that loss of life would have been avoided."

TAD MURTY,
TSUNAMI EXPERT

"For the Indian Ocean, there is neither research nor ... any warning system."

Murty blames the absence of tsunami detection partly on a lack of initiative from the affected countries' governments, noting they are more likely to devote resources to more regularly occurring types of natural disasters.

"Warning systems concentrate on things that are more frequent," he said.

"Cyclones, floods—these things are much more common. ... If we had a warning system almost all that loss of

life would have been avoided."

Murty asserted the establishment of a collaborative network in the region, with participation from all Indian Ocean countries, is necessary—similar to the system already in place for the Pacific Ocean.

Ocean-bottom seismographic monitors, and computer-generated models, he said, need to be employed in order to predict the onset of a tsunami.

"Based on the magnitude of the earthquake, they will know whether a significant tsunami will be generated," he said.

On 3 January, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono promised to establish a warning system that would alert officials early enough to evacuate affected areas.

Meanwhile, with some sources putting the death toll at over 160,000, the situation remains dire. Governments have pledged more than \$5 billion in aid. Prime Minister Paul Martin announced Canada's contribution is going to be \$425 million.

Canadians also continue to privately pledge financial assistance for tsunami relief, with more than \$65 million in donations already committed.

Jamie Hamelin, spokesperson for the Red Cross in Manitoba, said the organization has been receiving a steady amount of contributions.

"The word we're using right now is 'unprecedented,'" he said.

Hamelin stressed, however, the situation demands continued support from Canadians.

"It really needs to be more," he said. "The need is so great and the variables are changing so quickly."



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Tsunami areas aren't the only ones that need our help

IN THE AFTERMATH of last month's Asian tsunami, it has sometimes seemed that the only thing more fashionable than donating to the relief effort is questioning the size of the donations others have made.

Various NBA players donate \$1000 for each point they score in a game—but is it enough? Hyundai and Kia give \$1.5 million—but surely they could have done better. The government of Canada pledges \$80 million—that's not even close to Australia's pledge. I guess Australia wins.

The second-guessing and competitive compassion is a habit that's overshadowing not only the immense amount of good work that's happening, but also the fact that there are plenty of other relief efforts that still need donations. Everyone wants to be seen giving as much as possible to tsunami-related efforts, resulting in other areas of need that just aren't as fashionable watching funds that might have been sent their way, plus much more, get diverted to Asia.

The world has certainly stepped up with support for tsunami victims in an unprecedented manner—which is unfortunate, since it's certainly not a disaster of unprecedented scale. Yes, over 150 000 people were killed by the waves, but the number of very preventable deaths in Africa this year will far exceed that. The genocide in Darfur, Sudan also continues to leave hundreds of thousands of people, at least, in desperate need of aid. Then there's the Iraq war and numerous other ongoing humanitarian crises throughout the world—all of which are at risk of being ignored in the rush to send money to Asia.

It's fantastic that people have responded to the terrible crisis in Asia. The level of genuine compassion and desire to do good is heartening in a world where people often seem indifferent to the suffering of others—or, far more often than we like to think about, even delight in it. But at the same time, it's somewhat puzzling that this particular event has led to such a large outpouring, while previous crises of similar or even greater magnitude have elicited a relative shrug of sympathy and a half-hearted lament of helplessness. I'd like to think that the current effort will mark a turning point that will see an increase in all aid efforts, rather than just selected ones, but past experience makes that prospect doubtful. It seems much more likely that once the tsunami fades from memory, donation (and non-donation) habits will return to their previous levels until the next high-profile disaster.

Hopefully I'll be proven wrong. Perhaps, in the rush to show their compassion for tsunami victims, some donors will notice that there are other places in just as much need of some compassion. If people are led to a greater appreciation of humanitarian needs throughout the world, then something good will have come out of this horrible experience.

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

I heart imperialism

NOW THAT THE US has officially pulled the plug on the search for WMD, it can pretty much safely be assumed that the chief reason for the invasion of Iraq was extending US influence around the globe. And while I can understand that the rest of the world would be upset about this, what I don't get is why so many Americans seem to be so mad at their own administration.

I mean, really, if you're the imperialist power, what do you have to worry about? Sure, a few of your children might die, but think of all the financial benefits. I'm pretty sure that a few measly soldiers, who were probably all poor anyway, are worth a healthy economy. Past nations never seemed to have a problem with this. Hell, the British even had a day specifically designated for celebrating their empire. Really, America, it's time to get over your "moral" and start basking in the warm glow of being an imperialist power. Also, Canada has nothing of any value, so I'd stick to the Middle East for now.

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor



LETTERS

Protesters had a right to complain about Springer opera

In regards to your editorial, "Protesters need to choose their battles" (11 January), as a Christian, and a viewer of the BBC, I feel we had a right to complain over the show. Yes, a trashy play, a morality play? I'm not so sure! Whatever the critics may think it offended me in my faith by making fun of God.

However, there was a mistake made by Christian Voice in publishing the telephone numbers and other contact details of BBC producers, but it must be stressed that these were already in the public domain. I feel those who utilized them to make threats if they did, as some reports say the police haven't been contacted about them, were probably the very extremes of the movement and do not represent the whole.

The people meeting outside the BBC on Saturday night were meeting to hold a prayer vigil. I was at one in Plymouth and we sang a few choruses, read parts of the Bible and prayed for the BBC, other media and the directors of the company. We went in love, not hate.

We did feel offended the BBC hadn't listened, and we still feel they wouldn't dare broadcast anything as offensive against other religions prophets or icons.

ROB ALLWRIGHT
England

Who's Your Daddy? Shows dark side of adoption, deserves praise

In regards to your article by Scott C. Bourgeois, "Adoption is not a reality

show," (11 January), although I was at first skeptical about Fox's adoption game show, *Who's Your Daddy?*, I sat glued to the screen as TJ reunited with his family after a long and obviously unhappy separation. It's no wonder adoption promoters wanted to censor the show, every raw emotion experienced by TJ, his father and his mother proved how brutally heartbreaking adoption is.

Adoption advocates were naturally angered that TJ's adopters were left out of the picture almost entirely. However, the eight years I've spent working with parents and adoptees in various stages of reunion have taught me that the most successful reunions do not involve the adopters. After all, the adopters were likely the only ones who benefited when the child they adopted was taken from her family. Their participation in a reunion is unwarranted and often prevents the separated family members from speaking honestly with one another. Despite the seven men masquerading as possible fathers, honesty was not in short supply on Fox Monday night. When TJ's father and his friend spoke of how much he wanted to keep her and how close he came to leaving the hospital with her, they told a story all too common in adoption. I find it hard to believe that anyone can look at that situation as "giving up" a baby.

With no other options available to them, and two large orders preventing their escape, it can only be said that TJ was stolen from her parents by a system that still to this day conspires against young, unwed mothers and their newborns.

I hope Fox does air the remainder of *Who's Your Daddy?* specials that have already been taped. Our adoption-happy culture needs a wake-up call, and reality TV may just be an alarm we can hear.

JESSICA DELBAZO
Founder
Adoption: Legalized Lies

Don't drink and drive

Last Thursday, EPS Police Chief Fred Rayner announced the figures of their Checkstop campaign for November and December, and like many other Edmontonians, I was shocked to hear the results.

The Edmonton Police charged 505 individuals with impaired driving, and furthermore issued 585 people 24-hour suspensions. Edmontonians already have a reputation of being horrible drivers, yet many of them made the absurd decision to go behind the wheel after consuming alcohol. Not only do I find this to be completely irresponsible, but also an act of utter stupidity.

Although I am thankful that the EPS did a wonderful job of preventing those people from driving on our roads, the high numbers reported make me wonder how many impaired drivers were left uncaught. During the two-month campaign, there were still three alcohol-related collisions and one alcohol-related fatality. With 42 per cent of the charged individuals being between the ages of 16 and 24, I believe that young adults must take more responsibility when dealing with this issue.

But what can you do to help? Firstly, plan ahead. If you know you are going to go out and have a few drinks, plan a safe way of getting home, whether it be a sober friend giving you a ride, or a taxi cab home. Secondly, offer to be a designated driver amongst your group of friends, so they do not have any excuse to drive home drunk. Thirdly, speak out. If you see that one of your friends is about to drive home after drinking, do everything you can to stop them, and help them find an alternative way home. Fourthly, if you see an impaired driver on the roads, call the police immediately. That one call may save a life. Finally, treat impaired driving as a serious

issue. The more that people joke about this, the more socially acceptable it becomes. Make sure that you let people know that there is nothing about drinking and driving that is acceptable.

There is no excuse for impaired driving, whether it be after consuming alcohol or any other drug. Do the right thing and drive responsibly.

VIKRAM GURTI
Vice President (External)
U of A Students Against
Drunk Driving

Kaszor very, very wrong

In regards to the Gateway's bottom five movies of the year list by Daniel Kaszor (11 January), I was shocked and dismayed to see the list dominated by "urban comedies".

Mr Kaszor—who I assume is white—wrote down these films that were clearly created for an audience that he does not understand. Just because the movies aren't made for you doesn't mean you have free license to pan them in the press.

Maybe next time you want to unleash your cultural imperialism on the world, Mr Kaszor, you should decide against it instead.

VANJA ABRAAS
Science III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author; to be considered for publication.

Living on your own has its downsides, but it sure beats Chez Mom and Dad



ROSS MOROZ

We all look forward to Christmas vacation for a variety of different reasons, be they spiritual, materialistic, or merely gluttonous. For me, Christmas vacation is all of these things to at least some degree—assuming, of course, that “spiritual” has something to do with spirituous liquors. But in a more specific sense, I look forward to winter break because it affords me an opportunity to sit back and enjoy eating food that I neither bought nor prepared while consuming electricity, water and heat that someone else is footing the bill for.

You see, according to the U of A's numbers, roughly half of the student body still live with their respective mommies and daddies; the other half have dared to leave the safety of the nest and now spread their collective wings by living on their own. I fall firmly in the latter category, and I'm beginning to suspect that which group an individual falls into ends up determining a lot more about them than merely who pays for their socks and undies.

Simply put, adults don't live with their parents. Children live with their

parents. Age is irrelevant: an 18-year-old living away from home is basically grown up; a 24-year-old who resides in his mom's basement, meanwhile, is not. Instead, Johnny Deadead remains locked in this weird ultra-extended adolescence: he is legally allowed to vote, own property, look at a newspaper in pornography and consume liquor across the free world, but is unable to accept phone calls after 10:30pm or take a shower lasting longer than seven minutes.

Someone sends me a bill every month for water. Water, for christ-sakes, I mean, come on ... it literally falls from the sky. Who the hell do I make that cheque out to? God?

Everything he does carries an air of immaturity: when you live on your own, your friends “crash” at your place; when you live with your parents, they have a “sleepover.” Guys who live at home have their girlfriends over to “study”; when you live on your own, your girlfriend comes over for “sex.”

I should clarify that I am not trying to portray self-sufficiency as some

kind of non-stop late-'60s Playboy mansion-esque cocktail party. Quite the opposite—in most ways, living on one's own really, really sucks. When I first moved out, I had to get used to some pretty unfamiliar and unpleasant phenomena. For example, dirty dishes left unwashed on a Tuesday evening tend to still be dirty on Wednesday morning. The laundry hardly ever does itself anymore. And worst of all, eventually invoices started arriving in the mail for all this stuff that had always been free before I moved out. Like electricity. And gas, which was a real shocker, since at that time I wasn't even driving. And, believe it or not, water. I'm serious. Someone sends me a bill every month for water. Water, for christ-sakes, I mean, come on ... it literally falls from the sky. Who the hell do I make that cheque out to? God?

But I digress. The point is, while moving away from home is expensive, stressful, lonely, and—in extreme cases—sometimes near fatal, it is these hardships that help us leave adolescence behind, changing from angst-ridden teens into cynical, nihilistic, 20-somethings. A young Navajo would go on a dream quest; we move into a crummy basement suite just off Whyte, thus completing our journey into adulthood. Until, of course, we realize our degrees are useless, default on our student loans and move back home, at which point we become neither children nor adults, but simply “losers.”

Dead bodies have no place in a magazine



CHRIS KRAUSE

The most recent issue of *Time* magazine had as its cover story the tsunami disaster that struck Southeast Asia on December 26. This is not surprising, due to the scope and horror of the event. Among the photos used in the article is one with a caption that reads, “Two days after the earthquake, three corpses lie in a river.” The photo delivers exactly what it promises, and I am sad to say this is equally unsurprising.

In recent years, mainstream magazines and newspapers seem to have decided that it is acceptable to publish photos of dead bodies, sometimes going so far as to put such photos on the cover or front page. The first time I became aware of this was a few years ago, when there was a rash of high-profile gang-related violence here in Edmonton. A young man had been shot dead in the driveway of his family's Millwoods home, and a picture of this bloody corpse appeared in the *Sun* the next day.

Although his head and part of his torso were covered by someone's leather jacket as he lay dead in front of his parents' home, I couldn't stop thinking about how I had just seen the actual dead body of a stranger. It felt very wrong. Fast-forward a year or two, and let's consider news coverage from the war in Iraq. Media coverage of this war far exceeded that of any other conflict in history, largely thanks to scores of “embedded” reporters who would spend days or weeks at a time with a designated group of soldiers. I can recall seeing

at least a dozen dead Iraqis in pictures from the paper or in news magazines. Like the grey, bloated tsunami victims mentioned above, these bodies did not have the benefit of a jacket over their heads. Their dusty faces were caked with sand and fully visible.

A 1999 report by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary stated that by age 18, an American child will have seen 16 000 simulated murders. Such fictionalized images of death are so ubiquitous that they arouse barely any response at all anymore. Real death, on the other hand, is a different thing altogether. To take the death of another person seriously is to uplift the value of human life and human dignity. Unfortunately, pictures such as those I have described do the exact opposite.

First of all, they are taken without permission and without consideration for the cultural beliefs of the deceased. By doing so, they treat the bodies not like mere instead of an extinguished human instead.

Second, there is a very strange pat-

tern in whose corpses are shown. I have seen dead bodies from Sudan, Thailand, Iraq, but not a single dead American soldier or Florida hurricane victim. The media could portray violence in a very effective way: for example, televise an execution and force viewers to confront the killing they endorse. But by restricting the depictions to non-whites from distant countries entirely unlike ours, these pictures alienate us even further from the destruction, making it seem even more movie-like and less like the loss of a real human life.

Third, the pictures fail to remind us of the value of life because they give no context to the anonymous body before us. They don't make us remember that man's wife whom he will never kiss again, or his son whose marriage he will never attend. We can't possibly know all the people who depended on him or on whom he depended, so we are tempted to trivialize his life out of our ignorance. By doing so, we cheapen life itself.

Ariston's marriage breaking up.

I don't, however, understand the media hang-up on celebrity gossip. Why are Winona Ryder's shoplifting habits of any concern to me? Do I care that Bruce Willis is dating a girl who could be his daughter? Do these events affect me? At all? Even indirectly? Then don't report it. Instead, maybe we should pay attention to something that may actually be important, like, say, tsunami fallout? Heck, I'd even take the California mudslides at this point.

SCOTT C. BOURGEOIS

THE BURLAP SACK

So, it's that time of year again. No, not the return to a new semester here at the University, nor even the New Year. It's time for the 45th annual Worst Dressed Women list from our friends in Hollywood. Why should you care, you ask? Simple: the media says you should care, and what the say, goes.

I've recently discovered why I care about celebrity trials, fashion blunders and falling romances. It's because of the news. If they didn't make such a big deal out of celebrities and their off-camera lives, I wouldn't give a damn about Brad Pitt and Jennifer

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature, wherein a person or group is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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City of God (Cidade de Deus)
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February 8 **Quotable Notables**
Monty Python And The Holy Grail
The Princess Bride

February 15 (in RATT) **Zero Degrees Of Separation**
Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels
Casablanca

March 1 **Customer Service Reprehensible**
Clerks
High Fidelity

March 8 **Alfred Hitchcock Presents**
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March 15 **The Life Cinematic With Wes Anderson**
The Royal Tenenbaums
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March 22 **Cherry Poppin' Directors**
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March 29 **Ain't No Andes High Enough**
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HARPER'S MAGAZINE editor
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Cold weather isn't the measure of a man

DERRICK
GREBSKI



This just is: it's freaking cold. Yes, yes, we're Canadians and thus defined by our ability to shrug off temperatures comparable to the dark side of Pluto, but that doesn't change the simple fact that all this cold really, you know, sucks. Of course, I don't dare mowl about this to anyone in person lest I be derided as a sissy, which, if you stop to think about it, is pretty stupid.

This is just the most recent example of an obvious deficiency being turned into a bizarre badge of honour. Too fat to shoehorn your ass into a single seat on the average airliner? No, you're just not one of those shallow jerks who bases his ego upon purely physical traits. So professionally inept that the best you can hope for is a heady career in the ditch-digging industry? No, you're just not afraid of real work, unlike those wusses who sling paper in a cubicle all day. Purposely drive an American car, despite the fact that its quality would embarrass French space engineers? Then you're a hero for supporting the local boys instead of sending your money overseas.

And so we dance. Despite the fact that 96 out of 100 Canadians would likely send this damned cold straight to ironic hell. If they had the choice, their inability to do so means that it's suddenly a key reason for our unparalleled greatness. Those frozen birds that are falling from the sky outside are weak. Weak, I tell ya!

Invariably, it comes time to downplay the cold in order to reinforce the fact that, not only are we harder than everyone else, but much harder than everyone else. So, coats far and wide are left open as the carcasses inside slowly becomes one large crystal of ice, at which point it will still insist through clenched teeth that this, whatever the temperature might be, is not real cold. If anyone asks, real cold begins ten

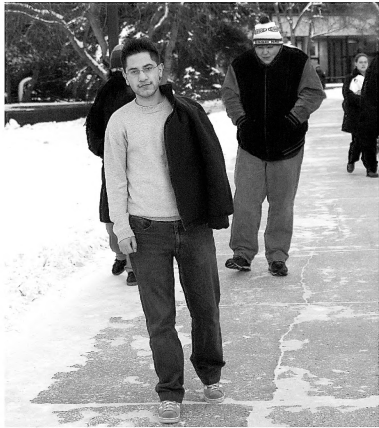


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LEANNE FONG
FRIGIDIOT Yeah, yeah, Canadians can withstand the cold. Aren't we tough?

degrees colder than the present temperature. The wind-chill factor, of course, is a separate calculation.

The beauty of being a Canadian is that this scheme is virtually foolproof. It is colder in Canada, on average, than any other well-populated area on Earth. So we are able to look down our runny noses at everyone, outside those who live at either of the two poles or Greenland, which, incidentally, is almost nobody. A Canadian may adopt a superior approach without even knowing who he or she is dealing with, as the odds of it being colder where the opposition lives are indeed small.

As with any superpower, though, there is a point of weakness. The cold-dental process is so ingrained in Canadians that we will turn upon each other at the drop of a hat. In the name of science, I urge you to attempt the following experiment: first, walk into any Canadian small town. Next,

select a member of the local community. Finally, complain about the cold. If you're not degraded directly to your face, you certainly will be upon leaving. You may even have a folk song written in your honour. You, my friend, are a Canadian, tougher than a week-old steak, and that is a full-time job. The weak must be culled from the herd.

Eventually, the winter is replaced by the revitalization of spring, and our miraculous ability to withstand absolute zero becomes unimportant. Luckily, there is either heat or mosquitoes upon which to construct the Canadian summer ego, both of which are more extreme here than anywhere else in the solar system.

But the winter is when Canadians really shine. Even if the impossible happens and you're confronted by someone from a climate that is actually colder, remember this: Arctic beer, if it even exists, is probably inferior to ours. Check. Mate.

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Main Floor SUB

You shouldn't believe everything you hear

Blind faith is no match for questioning information, from directions to drugs



GRAHAM
LETTNER

The Villagers are a family of seven, of Swiss origin, and owners of a rustic log house in a northwest nook of Alberta just above Grande Prairie. This Christmas, while following the driving instructions given by Sarah (the Villagers' middle child) to pay them a visit, I ended up taking a 70-minute detour north through Nowheresville, Alberta. Turns out the directions I was given were wrong; it wasn't left, but right at the Horse Lakes sign.

Since I had been given instructions by someone in a position of authority (after all, Sarah *does* live there), I accepted her statements unquestioningly. But until I doubted the veracity of Sarah's directions, I continued to travel further and further from the true location of her house. An honest mistake, of course, but much of the misinformation we absorb isn't so benign.

It seems we don't mind being spoon-fed by our profs, by our media, even by our significant others. It is much less taxing to take what is said or read at face value than to weigh it, sift out the chaff and judge how much truth to bestow on it. Choosing not to question the information you take in may be fine for many things—such as the schedule for the 106 bus—but is mostly a shitty way to expand your mind as an undergrad.

Take the rating of the movie you just picked: "Best film of the year!" the cover shouts. But wait, isn't it January? How about the thought that consuming a protein-to-carbs ratio of 33:1 isn't so healthy after all? The six-foot Dr Atkins did weigh 248lbs and have a history of heart disease and heart attacks at the time of his death, after all. My childhood friend's German grandpa is insistent the Holocaust is hateful American propaganda; an ugly lie, for sure, but try convincing him of that. It turns out truth revels in a challenging game of hide-and-go-seek.

It seems we don't mind being spoon-fed by our profs, by our media, even by our significant others. It is much less taxing to take what is said or read at face value than to weigh it, sift out the chaff and judge how much truth to bestow on it.

The drug Vioxx gives a stinging example of the absence of truth. Researched, tested and marketed as a breakthrough pain reliever for arthritis, it was recently pulled from shelves because of its side effect of doubling—and, in some cases, multiplying by eight—one's chance of cardiovascular failure. The stud-

ies produced by Merck, the drug's founding company, had previously pointed to the contrary, yet they proved to be wildly off the mark. In a pharmaceutical business with profits in the billions, profiteering motives first tainted, then utterly poisoned the truth of Vioxx's safety.

Then there are the assurances that Canadian beef is safe for consumption being recently displaced by admittances of contaminated meat making it to market. A lack of information produced this public-health lie, but ignorance is no safety net in misleading the masses that depend on accurate assessments by government agencies.

No one has a monopoly on truth, and no one has a license to dispense it without debate. Yet by following the intellectual path of least resistance, we find ourselves purchasing truth wholesale from anyone who happens to be selling.

This is not to glorify the position of the agnostic. To not choose at all, or to be paralyzed by the fear of choosing wrongly, is as destructive as swallowing whole any fractional fact that passes your way. Yet questions must be asked and asked frequently if we want a chance at being conscious of the external forces that constantly bend and warp truth to fit their own prepackaged notions.

Directions to a Swiss supper are only so important. Questioning the larger "truths" that make in and out of our campus and society is of much greater gravity. Learning may begin in the lecture hall, but it begins to truly flourish only once the seeds of doubt have been planted.

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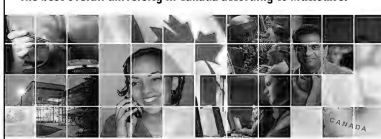
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Show a little respect, people



EMILY
SMIT

At home during the holidays, one expects to witness various acts of kindness and general goodwill thanks to the spirit of the season. However, much to my disappointment, my Christmas break was tarnished by an article in my local newspaper. It was a look into the daily goings-on of one Peter Boyle, a friendly neighbourhood snowplow driver. Apparently, throughout the holiday he had been receiving complaints, accusations, and rude hand gestures because, while clearing the streets of snow, he coincidentally created that familiar mound of snow at the end of driveways. For some locals, this was too much of an inconvenience and, dare I say, quite insulting.

But really, as a local snowplow driver, Mr Boyle had it coming. After all, he had the indecency to rid our fair streets of snow. He had the selfish nerve to clear our roadways so that we may drive safely around town. Oh, the injustice!

In the 24 December edition of the *Guelph Mercury*, an article describes that city snowplow drivers battle insults from residents as well as the elements. Apparently, it's a great inconvenience to shovel that last bit of snow piled at the end of the driveway by a passing plow. So much so that it warrants sarcastic remarks, evil glares, and rude gestures in the direction of the driver. Two days before Christmas, Guelphites shared the holiday spirit by cursing snowplow drivers. These drivers, some on call

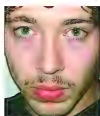
on the 25th, often wake at 3am and work straight through twelve-hour days to allow us drivers the safety and luxury of clear streets. For us, it takes barely a fraction of that time to shovel our own driveways, including the dreaded "barricade" at the end.

I'm sure Mr Boyle and his colleagues could create a better system of snow removal. Maybe little Christmas elves could dash around magically collecting the tiny walls of snow. Or perhaps car owners—so intent on preventing that fringe at the end of their driveway that they park their vehicle half-way out on the street—could just leave their cars unlocked. That way, the city workers could remove that pile of snow by filling the interior and trunk of the car with it. Where could the snow go? The ditches, the rooftops, or maybe up where the sun don't shine to give these people a nice cold taste of their own medicine.

It blows my mind that these dedicated city workers are scorned and jeered at by homeowners solely for doing their jobs. It's a job that needs to be done, and one that is greatly underappreciated. In such a materialistic and consumer-driven holiday, have we lost the true meaning of Christmas? Perhaps if these modern-day Scrooges kept it up, we'll all be shoveling our entire street as well as our driveways.

But maybe you—yes you, the one reading this—will raise your gaze upwards with a touch of compassion next time you see that flashing light and hear the rumblings of a mini avalanche of snow. Maybe instead of flashing a wayward finger, you will offer a wave and a smile to our neighbourhood snowplow operator. After all, they're just doing their job. Maybe we can make it a happy new year for the Peter Boyles all over the country.

Age brings a Christmas bender with less booze, more videogames, but it still kicks ass



JOSH
JENNER

Getting old sucks. Although there are a lot of sucky things about it, one of the suckiest with things to suck is the sly insidiousness with which this aging occurs.

It's like one day you're an 18-year-old engineering student wondering if this is going to be the year when you're finally going engage in some light to moderate petting, and the next thing you know you're a world-weary, embittered fifth-year for whom half of the freshman class is ineligible for said petting, not so much on the basis of your ugliness or the personal hygiene concerns of the female population, but simply because of the divide-by-two-then-add-seven rule.

Yes, it's a creepy thing when the annual Christmas break (aka Christmas bender) rolls around, and what you want to do isn't drugs, hookers, or even it-to-it; all you want is to watch some goddamn TV without any goddamn interruptions. In fact, the only bending you're at all interested in has more to do with your mom's no-pop-after-10pm rule than with booze!

This, however, may not be as big of a tragedy as it sounds. You see, I learned something this year: the Christmas bender isn't necessarily about chugging down the Baileys

you ganked in the family Chinese gift exchange, unmixed, to get shitfaced on Boxing Day, or about spending New Year's Eve sleeping snuggled up to a hot-water pipe for warmth in the crawl-space of an apartment building in Banff.

It's just that I learned to measure my Christmas bender by a different yardstick this year, and to appreciate this holiday of holidays in a different light. I learned that absolute, unadulterated slothfulness is a beautiful thing in a seedy, terrible kind of way—not unlike a 45-year-old stripper or a nice shaggy mustache.

It can also be about playing PlayStation until your eyes, thumbs and anus bleed. It's basically all about being as hopelessly self-indulgent as possible.

This isn't to say that I've gone completely soft—although I have to give the credit for maintaining a bottle of coffee-liqueur to my brother, I did, in fact, spend New Year's Eve (or a good four hours of it, at least) securely stowed beneath the lobby of my

friend's apartment building in Banff, a little to the left of a warm pipe. The moral: I'm still hard as fuck, or at least as close to fuck as my shambled 23-year-old body will let me be.

It's just that I learned to measure my Christmas bender by a different yardstick this year, and to appreciate this holiday of holidays in a different light. I learned that absolute, unadulterated slothfulness is a beautiful thing in a seedy, terrible kind of way—not unlike a 45-year-old stripper or a nice shaggy mustache.

In fact, I'd say that if there was some kind of way I could carve out an existence that consisted only of me inhaling Nuts n' Bolts while lounging on the couch in my parents' basement watching VIP reruns and occasionally yelling at my dog, I'd do it. Forget money, fame, fortune, family, etc! All I need is Pam, some trans fats, my lucky blanket and someone (or something) to yell at, and I'll be a happy guy.

I guess if I'm trying to say anything, it's this: the Christmas bender is a time in your life when you're free to do whatever you want, and that's exactly what you should do. At first I felt a bit guilty about not partying my wrinkly old ass off, but I realized something: I'm not 21 anymore, dammit. If I want to lie around and soup my virtual Lancer Evo VI up to 555bhp while occasionally calling my dog a fucking geek, I'm going to do it.

And that, kids, is what life is all about. Doing what makes you happy, even if it is at the expense of others or your pets. Jesus would have liked it that way.

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We don't need Fox—we've got Global



TONY
SANTIN

It would appear that complaining loudly enough in this country will eventually get you your way. Many have been haranguing the CBC over the last while to let the Fox News channel onto Canadian airwaves, and it seems that soon Lloyd Robertson and Peter Mansbridge will be in the company of Bill O'Reilly and his cronies. But for all the flap that accepting a right-wing "news" channel onto Canadian TV has caused, it ignores the fact that we already have a right-wing "news" channel of our own, known to you and I as CanWest Global.

If ever you have seen one of their "news" programs, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. Much of what is reported is a veritable crime against journalism. Not unlike what is done at Fox News, there is a tendency toward editorializing within their stories, wherein they're practically telling you what to think, rather than letting a viewer come to his or her own conclusions about what they saw. This is largely the result of a very hierarchical system within the network itself, with one central figure at the top essentially commanding from the heights. Fox has a great deal of its content judged from on high by the almighty Aussie bazillionaire Rupert

Murdoch. Global too has a lording presence at its top in the form of the Asper clan.

And when it comes to this powerful central presence in both of their organizations, political activism is never far from the forefront. While Murdoch essentially makes Fox his mouthpiece for stalwart conservatism and pro-Bush diatribes, the late Asper clan patriarch, Israel "Izzy" Asper, was a steadfast supporter of the Zionist movement and felt that his media holdings should reflect this.

Fox has a great deal of its content judged from on high by the almighty Aussie bazillionaire Rupert Murdoch. Global too has a lording presence at its top in the form of the Asper clan.

Barely two years ago, a large group of the Global newscasters' writing and editorial staff quit amid charges of excessive meddling and interference on the part of several high-up executives in the Global hierarchy, some of whom were members of the Asper family or closely related. Stories involving the Middle East, particularly the Israel-Palestine conflict, were allegedly actively changed or suppressed due to the Aspers' unwavering

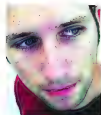
support of the Zionist cause.

Izzy Asper's steadfast support of the Zionist movement even led him to sponsor a visit by Benjamin Netanyahu during autumn of 2002 to Concordia University in Montréal, a campus with a large pro-Palestinian population. This visit nearly sparked a riot between Palestinian and Israeli supporters on campus, which was only averted by police intervention.

The Aspers, namely Izzy, were also close friends of Jean Chrétien. As a result, while he was in power criticism of his government's policies were muted at best. But now that his chief rival is in office, there's hardly a punch that's pulled. Here's an example from a few months ago of both editorializing in news and political partisanship: Kevin Newman, anchor of Global's evening show, the *Global National*, opened a news item regarding the federal government's overspending on a federal program by giving the lead and then declaring "why you should be outraged." Thank you ever so much for trying to do the thinking for us, and never mind presenting the news.

So we're left with the prospect of having two networks with similar styles of reporting and presenting their "news," and similar central importance placed on the boss's views and stances. What does that mean to us? For one, it means that there will be another network broadcasting in this country that is dedicated to telling the people what they want to hear, and not what they need to know. And as far as journalism in this country is concerned, it only serves to lower the bar for everyone.

Tsunami disaster forces us to ask bigger questions



AARON
BRAATEN

Last summer, a friend of mine was enjoying an evening out on Whyte Ave with his wife when your average Whyte Ave creep came up to them and stated something profound: "Remember folks, these are the good ol' days." Taken aback at what the man said, my friend was instantly reminded of the strange way old people reminisce about the time when a trolley ride cost them a nickel and their weekly allowance of 25 cents bought them two Cokes in glass bottles and five politically incorrect licorice babies. That story definitely had me thinking: what's a chocolate bar going to cost in 2025?

Way back in the good ol' days of my youth, when MC Hammer was cool and kids hopped around on those stupid Pogo Balls, I always wondered what I would be doing in 2025. Would I be an undercover CSIS agent spying on university professors or a writer for some world-renowned newspaper? Perhaps. But as I have come to learn, the future never unfolds the way you predict, and the memories you recall from your past are usually the best ones.

I remember the optimism I had back in the first year of my undergraduate degree. I was departing on an intellectual journey to find the answers to profound questions like those pertaining to existence, the nature of God, and the purpose of life. But that was before I discovered \$2.50 Stella Artois at RATT.

Nevertheless, education has turned out to be a trivial pursuit of red herding down rabbit holes to nowhere and other clichéd intellectual destinations. The desire for meaning and under-

standing of life has been conditioned out of me through focus on pointless pursuits of mind-numbing minutiae.

Like Adam Smith's division of labour, we are trained away from questions that matter, and learn to substitute lifetime pursuits in their place as a means to avoid confronting real issues. For the athlete, it might be ten years of shoving a second or adding a pound. For the scientist, discovery of a new law might take a lifetime. It's like we spend our allocation of time trying to avoid asking the obvious questions. And then a disaster strikes.

For some people, such a disaster might come in the form of a loved one being hit and killed by a drunk driver. For others, a friend might die of cancer, AIDS or some fluke illness that happens to one in a million people. For me, it was the 26 December tsunami in Indonesia combined with my obsession over volcanoes.

There is a virtual storm of misinformation regarding this tragedy. Most people are currently wasting bandwidth on the Internet discussing whether or not the earthquake was caused by past

US nuclear testing in the South Pacific or, worse, some joint Israeli-Indian nuclear test, as an Egyptian paper has alleged. What our media and the global punditocracy have ignored is the fact that the epicentre of the earthquake was near the northern tip of Sumatra, which happens to be the home of the Toba Caldera super volcano. If that thing ever went, we would see a billion people gone off the face of the Earth. It is no coincidence that the BBC shelved its super-thriller docudrama *Supervolcano* last week. People have had enough of it is.

2005 begins with a dampened sense of optimism concerning our future individually and collectively. The wackos in power in Iran and the US likely pose a greater threat to the world than a volcano. Sure, our collective pursuits of trivia will be preserved within the human record, but on the other hand, we might begin to ask the questions that matter. This is the good within human tragedy. No matter what the future may hold, recall this bitter-sweet truth: these are the good ol' days. May you remember them well.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Ways you're dealing with the NHL lockout

- 10 Watching entire Friday the 13th series just to see a hockey mask and some good tits.
- 9 Shovelling driveway slowly in a circular pattern while making zamboni noises.
- 8 Stalking various NHL players so you can wag your big foam novelty finger at them accusingly.
- 7 Just enduring your own personal "H-E-double hockey sticks," naturally.
- 6 Watching soccer—yeah right, just kidding.
- 5 Channelling all of your crippling frustration and rage into being a hockey dad.
- 4 Jerseying any and all special-ed kids wearing helmets.
- 3 Four words: Gary Bettman slash fiction.
- 2 Shaving body hair off with a sharpened skate.
- 1 Having your own personal Hockey Night in Canada, except replace "Hockey" with "Hooker."

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Canadian politics need some interesting scandals or they're doomed to obscurity



PAUL OWEN

"We need an Internet sex tape featuring Ujjal Dosanjh and Ken Dryden tag-teaming Stephen Harper's wife while Ralph Goodale pleasures himself in the background. I'm not a big fan of politics, but I'd be tuning into the local news every night if half the Liberal cabinet had had their way with Harper's wife."

Canadian politics have grown boring. Provinces have stopped attempting to separate; legislators refuse to implement new taxes that alienate the entire country; hell, it's even been at least six months since a political leader has gotten tanked and degraded the homeless. A province removing the Maple Leaf should be a big deal, but since it was Newfoundland, the rest of the country just said, "Oh you Newfies!" and gave them a patronizing smile and condescending shake of the head. The biggest issue on Parliament Hill right now is whether or not Peter Milliken's robe makes him look fat.

It wasn't always like this, though: Chrétien had his Bouchard, Trudeau had his FLQ, Mulroney had, well, being Brian Mulroney. Paul Martin, on the other hand, has gay marriage, an issue more overdone than an Old Navy ad campaign. The people are tired of hearing their politicians argue about Star Wars, two-tiered health-care and whether Britney or Christina fell off the map first. The old guys in the Senate are always shown on the news asleep because the House of Commons is just so damn boring. The girls and boys in Ottawa need a scandal before the country forgets they're even there.

What we need is someone, or something, to shake things up. We need Jack Layton cutting down a Christmas tree illegally in the Ontario wilderness, then going for another one because it has better "needle retention." We need a *Rolling Stone* spread featuring Sheila Ann Martin—even if she is no Maggie Trudeau. We need an Internet sex tape featuring Ujjal Dosanjh and Ken Dryden tag-teaming Stephen Harper's wife while Ralph Goodale pleasures himself in the background. I'm not a big fan of politics, but you can bet that I'd be tuning into the local news every night if half the Liberal cabinet had had their way with Harper's wife.

Of course, comparatively speaking, Canadian politics haven't exactly been a hotbed of awesome either. Compare our big political stories in the last 15 years to those of the United States. We had a referendum, "Shawinigate," "Adscam," and the farce that was Stockwell Day. They invaded Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq again, and are now looking at North Korea across the Pacific like a frat boy would at a drunken freshman across a bar. Their president, while launching cruise missiles into the Balkans, was in the process of getting impeached for having his cruise missile polished by an

intern. Their latest election featured a war veteran with a Purple Heart being trivialized—in a scene straight from *Monty Python*—for it being merely a flesh wound. I don't know about anyone else, but I'd rather be arguing over the ethics behind the carpet-bombing of three countries than the ethics behind the funding of a golf course.

The fact that the Liberals have not had any significant scandals since regaining power is probably why they still have it. Canadians, Albertans aside, like nothing more than to vote people out of office for screwing up, and with no major screw-ups on their record—the referendum didn't work, remember—there's no reason to entice Joe Schmuck Voter to boot them out of office. Especially when, with no major political stories, there's no reason for Joe Schmuck Voter to even get off his couch and vote; the average heterosexual person doesn't care if homosexuals can marry any more than the average non-pot smoker cares if marijuana is made legal.

We need a scandal to make people care about our elected officials. Not having one leaves only one option for the rest of us: a Google search for "Ralph Goodale sex tape."

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LEANNE KONG
FRIENDS FOREVER Marrying your same-sex, straight friend has its benefits.

Straight same-sex marriage is the wave of the future



TYSON
 KABAN

With the institution of marriage turning pinker with every new piece of legislation, the heterosexual population's contempt is hastily growing. And not just the sect who believe all sodomizers should burn in hell.

I'm talking about the women who binge-eat through *Sex and the City* reruns, and men who can't get laid. They feel left out. How would you feel if your sister got married to her "friend" from slo-pitch and you haven't even had a satisfying date or fuck in months?

Therefore, it's only a matter of time before the definition of marriage grows more convoluted than it already is, and straight same-sex marriage becomes the newest craze. Ideally, it would be a new, more efficient kind of sexless marriage. You know, the kind you think your middle-aged parents have.

Just think of it, girls: no more nights spent carrying your "Will's" cigarettes around the Roost, or being groped by a blind date in a restaurant booth. All you need to do is get down on one knee and ask your best friend or willing roommate to end the charade and be your wife. The same goes for guys. You're not getting any anyway, so it just makes sense to take the two-penis plunge. You'll not only gain a platonic partner for life, but a skilled fisherman who thinks it's a great idea to finance a new truck and register exclusively at Radio Shack.

And the benefits are endless. There won't be any more humiliating inquiries at family events, when your drunk Aunt Helen asks why you're still alone. You'll gain a second wardrobe, someone to blame for not having supper on the table, and an extra supply of tampons or straight porn. Even your cat Muffin will get another mommy or daddy. The best part is that these advantages will be reinforced by

Canadian law, not solely the threat of withholding next month's rent.

As for the perverts who are wondering how sex will factor into this arrangement of same-sex husbands and wives, well, they have devices for that. And one-night stands, the "fuck buddy," right hands, Showcase Revue, and prostitutes.

You'll gain a second wardrobe, someone to blame for not having supper on the table, and an extra supply of tampons or straight porn.

But let's be serious. For this progressive notion of heterosexual same-sex unions to really work, there are going to have to be some sacrifices made by both sexes. The women are going to have to ignore their biological clocks and try not to jump out of their pants every time a man with viable sperm walks by. And the men are just going to have to suck it up and ignore their inhibitions. There will be those times when they need to support their guy with a lingering hug, because we all know that uncles and pet goldfish don't live forever.

So, if you're tempted by the idea of having a non-sexual playmate, a second income and lifelong companionship without the requisite STDs and pregnancy scares, maybe straight same-sex marriage is the answer.

Whether or not people are actually being tempted by the idea, or if they just want to make a gratuitous statement regarding the confusing definition of marriage in our current social climate, it's only a matter of time before certain members of society will take this advice and marry a platonic acquaintance. But whatever you do, don't talk them out of it. That way, when the homosexuals are criticized for rising divorce rates in Canada as a result of same-sex marriage laws, they can say it was all the heterosexuals' fault.

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**Banff Mountain Film Festival
World Tour**
Track 'n Trail
15–16 January

If the weather these past few weeks is any indication, Mother Nature has turned into one raging and vindictive hell-bitch. It's too cold to enjoy the great outdoors these days, but luckily a fantastic substitute for out-of-doors frolicking is coming to town: this year's Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour.

Showcasing award-winning films from around the world, the festival covers everything from extreme rock climbing to leisurely kayaking, and aims to leave audiences with a greater understanding of mountain culture as well as the inspiration to seek out their own adventures. Tickets, which are selling out fast, are available at Track 'n Trail.



Slipknot
with *Lamb of God* and *Shadows Fall*
Shaw Conference Centre
Friday, 14 January at 7:30pm

Apparently, Slipknot released a new album, And to promote the biggest out of the sucker, they're currently in the middle of the Subliminal Verses Tour, which claims to be "the most metal in-your-face tour ever."

The band, which has been kicking around on the death-metal rock scene since the late '90s, is known for their high-energy shows and shock factor, performing in gruesome costumes and bashing their heads on onstage. The band stirred up more controversy when, in 2002, they stated they'd rather break up than become the next CMV89. Fortunately for fans, Slipknot kissed and made up, and three years later they want you to pay to see them bite the heads off puppies. Or, you know, whatever it is that they do.

Spinning Wheel Film Festival
Dinwoodie Lounge
Sunday, 16 January at 12:30pm

Spinning Wheel is now to the film-festival world, but don't let that detract you from attending its Edmonton screening. The festival features films with themes that deal with the richness and diversity of Sikh culture and traditions. This year's titles include *Sikh, Rattle & Roll*, a romance-infused coming-of-age story, and *Khamosh Pani* (*Silent Waters*), which explores a Sikh woman's tragic plight when left behind in Pakistan after India's partition in 1947.

The festival launched its second year at the Royal Ontario Museum, and its local screening is a prime opportunity for you to get educated about a fascinating culture.

ASIA SZKULAREK
Moving Pictures Enthusiast

Hey! Ho! Ramones doc so-so!

End of the Century: the Story of the Ramones

Starring Johnny Ramone, Dee Dee Ramone, Tommy Ramone, Marky Ramone and Joey Ramone
Directed by Jim Fields and Mike Gramaglia
Metro Cinema
14–17 January at 9pm

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor

When you go to see a documentary that's called *The Story of the Ramones*, you're damn well expecting to see a story, and that story better include an awful lot on the seminal punk rockers from New York. And while *End of the Century: the Story of the Ramones* certainly more than delivers on the story part of it, it doesn't do a whole lot else that will make this film worthwhile to watch.

To be fair, the story of how four outcast kids from Queens essentially changed the face of rock while virtually creating an entirely new genre of music almost completely by themselves is fairly interesting in and of itself. Still, you should probably expect more of a film than what amounts to a simple chronological overview of a band that's famous enough that most people, particularly fans of the band, will probably know a lot about them already.

That overview, however, is essentially all there is to be had from this project by first-time directors Jim Fields and Mike Gramaglia. The various band members jump in with relevant comments whenever it's necessary, but there isn't a whole lot of effort taken to get under the surface of these people or to, you know, find some sort of story other than the fairly simple thesis of "The Ramones were a rock band, and here's some of the stuff they did."

This is pretty much perfectly summed up in



the treatment of Johnny Ramone, the lead guitarist and, as the movie explains, driving force of The Ramones (he's also, for all purposes, the star of the film). While you certainly end up learning a lot about him, including where he grew up, his place in the band, what he liked and disliked about the band and so forth, you never actually really get to know him. Johnny can't really seem to open up to the camera, nor does it appear that the directors were really trying to dig deeper. Most of what you learn about his personality comes from other sources in the film, with Johnny giving quotes that flesh out his own history a bit without actually going into his own character. The other Ramones, from the drugged-out Dee Dee to lead-singer Joey, get roughly similar treatment, while some of the more minor band members get about as much screen time as the celebrities who talk briefly about The Ramones' impact on their careers.

The other thing that's lacking is a real objective examination of the Ramones phenomenon. Rather than examining some of the little ironies that surround a band like the Ramones—for instance, they've never managed much in the way of radio play, but are one of the most important bands of the last few decades, or the fact that they're a "punk band" with a set uniform they couldn't deviate from and an art director—it's mostly a fanboy's look at the career of the Ramones.

And again, while it is a fairly interesting story in and of itself, and is certainly a must-see for anyone who likes punk music, it still leaves anyone who isn't intensely interested in the Ramones wanting a bit. In the end, it feels a lot like a particularly good A&E network Biography: it gives a pretty comprehensive view of the band, but it never manages to go deeper than a simple story.

Walsh aims to put the funny in funeral

Hatching, Matching, & Dispatching

Directed by Henry Sawner-Foner
Starring Mary Walsh, Mark McKinney and Shaun Majumder
CBC Television
Monday, 17 January at 9pm

JAMES STORRIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If the premise of Mary Walsh's new series, *Hatching, Matching, & Dispatching*—a comedy built around a family that runs funeral, ambulance and wedding services—sounds a bit depressing, she would like to reassure you that it will be very funny. It's not a black comedy,

she insists, despite the seemingly dreary subject matter and the drab Newfoundland locale.

"It is a bit darker, but the characters are light-hearted about it. They have to be, since they deal with it all on a regular basis," says Walsh, who was in Edmonton on Tuesday to promote the new project, making the rounds at the CBC broadcast centre and Greenwood's Bookshoppe.

Thankfully, Walsh's word carries a fair deal of weight in the comedic arena. Anyone familiar with the CBC will remember the hilarious Newfoundland-set series *CODCO*, of which Walsh was a central figure, and her work on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* helped make it a veritable Canadian institution (all the while garnering her an absolute slew of Gemini awards). She also

hosts the literary series *Open Book* on the CBC, injecting a good deal of colour to (occasionally) dry subject material.

Hatching, Matching, & Dispatching is, like *CODCO*, set in Newfoundland, and co-stars Mark McKinney of *Kids In The Hall* fame, as well as "a whole number of extraordinary people from Newfoundland who you don't know but hopefully will soon," says Walsh. Capping out the list of CBC alumni is director Henry Sawner-Foner whose work on *Rick Mercer's Monday Report* has earned him a handful of Gemini toys.

The series aims to capitalize on Walsh and McKinney's extensive sketch comedy experience with a decidedly atypical format, eschewing the standard sitcom setup for what Walsh calls "sketchational comedy," a series of tenuously related sketches focusing on the Furey family and their local business.

Walsh plays Marianne "Marnie Ann" Furey, the matriarch of the family, whose slogan supplies the series' title. This sort of multitasking—taking members of the community from sperm to grave, so to speak—is common practice in small Newfoundland communities, explains Walsh. While the theme recalls HBO favourite *Six Feet Under* as well as current Canadian heavyweights *Corner Gas* and *Trailer Park Boys*, Walsh is hoping that the sketch form the CBC has become known for will give *Hatching, Matching, & Dispatching* the edge in sheer entertainment.

"I hope it's better than *Corner Gas* and *Trailer Park Boys*, though they're already very good," says Walsh. "[*Hatching, Matching, & Dispatching*] has great characters, great situations and great fun. It's not a *Seinfeld*-ian something-about-nothing show. This is going to be a show about everything."

And, says Walsh, "By the end of the half hour, hopefully you'll have laughed your hole off rather than learn anything."





Storyboard blossoms from 'musical puberty'

Storyboard

with *Por Nada and Clinker*
Seedy's
Friday, 14 January

JAMES STORRIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Since their modest beginning and slow rise in notoriety last year, local band Storyboard has encountered a few setbacks. Originally playing as Blueroom, they were asked to change their name by a blues outfit from Toronto to avoid confusion, and while there may be little confusion between the two bands now, there certainly was quite a bit among fans of the Edmonton band.

"People would come up to me and say, 'You're playing in this other band now? What happened to Blueroom?'" explains front man Nano Uribe. "It's not quite starting from scratch, but it did confuse quite a few people. I just hope people know by now that we are—were—Blueroom."

A far more difficult challenge for the band, however, has been edging

its way into Edmonton's incestuous music scene, notorious for having about 40 bands made of the same eight people.

"It's been a lot harder for us, not being someone or another's side project," says Uribe. "Other bands, and I don't want to name names—okay, well, Columbus for example. I'd never heard of them before, but suddenly they show up and they can instantly headline shows just because they're in the scene, or in someone's side project, or know a promoter. It's good in some ways that we had to survive on our own merits, but it's been a tough wall to break down."

But the group's still managed to eke out a spot in the Edmonton scene. Those who did attend any of Storyboard's many small, under-publicized shows—many of which took place at the Powerplant—have come to know Storyboard's mellow post-rock instrumental arrangements. But they shouldn't get too cozy with the band's old style. On Storyboard's new full-length album, they've developed past their earlier material.

"We've strayed a bit from the shoe-gazy, Mogwai-style stuff. It was a big starting point for us, and we haven't given it up entirely, but we're trying to incorporate more of our live energy. Our new material is much less muddy sounding," says bassist Emily Henkemans.

"It's done the way we wanted it done," agrees Uribe. "We went through musical puberty. I guess. It's like U2's *Three* versus U2's *Boy*: you can hear the starting point for their sound, bits of what's to come, but our first EP was really amateurish."

Despite all their hard work, however, Storyboard remains a modest success, not attracting as much press—for whatever reason—as Edmonton heavyweights such as The Floor or Faunts. Uribe says that you shouldn't let the prospect of a small show put you off.

"So many Edmonton people are just like, 'There aren't going to be ten people I know there. I'm not going to have fun,'" Grinning, Uribe suggests, "Just go see a show. Hear something new for once!"

Is it time to say goodbye to an old friend?



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Campbell's performance Will Be Loved

When Will I Be Loved

Directed by James Toback
Starring Nave Campbell,
Frederick Weller and Dominic Chianese
Metro Cinema
14–17 January at 7pm

TYSON KABAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

So much for the innocent/sexual play of *Five* older sister we came to love.

In *When Will I Be Loved*, Nave Campbell plays Vera, a smouldering grad student who's not-so-much dating as she is fucking a not-so-wise street hustler named Ford (Frederick Weller). When he falls to pimp out three washed-out blondes to hip-hopper Damon Dash for his music videos, he turns to Italian media mogul Count Tommaso Lupio (Dominic Chianese) for an indecent proposal that involves the Count, Vera's naughty bits and \$100,000.

When Vera learns that Ford expects all of the money if she agrees to sleep with the Count—after all, she's already a terribly wealthy daddy's girl—she doesn't hesitate to comply and the 69-year-old over to her gorgeous student loft for cocktails.

Vera does the deed, but for a cool million in cash, and when she sees Ford in the street the morning after, she fabricates a story that ultimately



results in a homicide, one that's been propelled by her own manipulative, hushed malice.

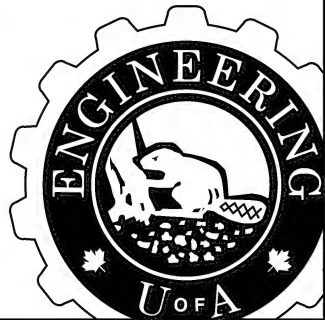
Writer/director James Toback (*Black and White*, *Harvard Man*) creates an inventive narrative from an improbable concept (a story idea that had its heyday in the '90s with movies such as *Indecent Proposal* and *Honeymoon in Vegas*). Toback's story neatly gives away just as much as it leaves out, and his sharp, clean filmmaking highlights each character's dark motives and leaves the viewer with the moral of the unintentional consequences of toying around with a woman's sexuality.

And speaking of the chap who gets the whole disaster rolling, Ford, Weller's performance of the roguish character is great. He's slicker than the

gobs of gel in his hair, and handles the quick banter among Ford's business (and romantic) conquests with cunning ease.

The innumerable-filled dialogue exchanged between Campbell and Chianese, too, is tense, clever and so frank it will make you blush. And Campbell gives it magnificently straight-faced delivery—particularly in one scene where she and the Count are bartering.

This is Campbell's movie. With this film, and last year's *The Company*, she's furthering the distance between the cardboard roles she's had in the past with her newfound indie cred. It's clear from this performance that Campbell has grown into an actress, whose edge, dulled by TV and *Stream*, has recently been sharpened.





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3-2-1, political action!

Activist group holds film festival for social change

Real Independent Film Festival: Motivating Citizens Through Film

Queen Alexandra Hall
14-16 January
www.boilingfrog.ca/rifff.htm

YING-YING LEE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For one activist organization, movies are a key way to inspire people to take action on pressing issues facing the world today.

Boiling Frog, a group that strives to inform citizens of environmental and humanitarian matters through distributing independently produced media on the issues is embarking on the Earth on Peace Tour. The tour, which makes its way through Edmonton this weekend, will feature the event's first ever Real Independent Film Festival (RIFFF).

"We want to wake people up and to re-energize them. Problems are getting larger and larger so we have to double our effort," says Kelly Reinhardt, a founding member of Boiling Frog.

"The Earth on Peace Tour is all about mobilizing Canadians. We have to convince our Prime Minister to take a stand on the issue of missile defense and all of the craziness that George W. Bush is causing."

According to Reinhardt, the festival promises to offer "the hardest hitting 'real' reality programming you won't see on TV." Globalization, poverty, democracy, and weaponry defense are just a few of the issues that will be depicted in the films. Reinhardt explains that RIFF is a unique viewing opportunity for Edmontonians.

"Many of the films we're screening aren't being shown here, which is really too bad. There are so many good films being made, and people are hungry to see them."

The films include *Gas Through Concrete: The Struggle to Protect the Red Hill Valley* (screens Friday, 14 January), a documentary by first-time filmmaker Maia Iotzova that reveals the tremendous efforts made to save Red Hill Valley, one of Canada's largest urban parks, from being turned into a four-lane expressway. While many Canadians are used to watching news about environmental catastrophes that occur around the world, this film sheds light on what is happening in our own backyard. The film also features a live performance by Sarah Harner, who was deeply touched by the efforts to save Red Hill Valley.

Also showing are *Sweet Misery: A Poisoned World* (Saturday, 15 January), a film that investigates the potential neurological illness that results from the long-term consumption of aspartame, and *Plan Columbia: Cashing In on the Drug War Failure* (Saturday, 15 January) a documentary about the complex issues of the US-imposed 20-year drug war on Columbia. The film features interviews with the likes of Noam Chomsky, Ramsey Clark, and Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt.

Reinhardt hopes that the film festival will leave an impression on viewers. "We want people to leave feeling motivated. We want them to re-create the positive stories that they learn about and to put up a resistance to everything that's bad in this world."



Hopesfall

A-Types
Trustkill Records
www.hopesfall.com

YING-YING LEE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I scream, you scream, we all scream for scream. Actually, if scream is what you're looking for, there may not be enough for you on the latest CD from Hopesfall, A-Types.

The album sees the band, previously known for their hardcore screamo ways, blend one part screaming vocals with three parts melodic vocals to cook up one batch of radio-friendly tracks.

Though the change may take some getting used to for Hopesfall fans, the album is sure to entice new listeners. As of late, bands like Alexisonfire have opened the doors and the ears of the public, making for a wide audience that will likely embrace this album.

Of course, the band's new accessibility will prompt the age-old question: has this band "sold out" in favour of popularity? In this case, it appears as though Hopesfall has managed to maintain their artistic integrity. In fact, singer Jay Forrest's vocal range adds a dynamic intensity to the emotion-infused lyrics.

So if hardcore screamo is what you're looking for, then perhaps you should take a listen to the Trustkill Records sampler that comes included—because you won't find it on A-Types.

STUDENTS' UNION PAGE 01.13.2005

RALLY TODAY

For the past 24 years, the Board of Governors has voted to increase tuition for undergraduate students at the U of A. This year, they're planning to vote for another 5.75% increase. We don't have to tell you how devastating these increases have been for students. You know because you have to pay. But it must be difficult for people with six-figure salaries to understand the impact their decisions have on ordinary people.

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Be at Celebration Plaza (across from University Hall) at 3:00 pm to show them that we are not going to be taken for granted anymore.

Then, on Friday, January 14, 2005, join the SU for the FREE "Poor Students' Breakfast at Celebration Plaza between 7:30 - 9:30 am. Stick around and be a visual reminder of those affected by the Board's decisions.

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ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's been said that those who fail history are doomed to repeat it. In Jin's latest album, *The Rest is History*, it is abundantly clear that Jin didn't do so well in Rap History 101—or at least that he hasn't been listening to the radio. He must not have heard the singles where rappers boast about their thug status, their mad skills and how superior and famous they all are, because the majority of the songs on his CD are just rereads of the popular I'm-peerlessly-talented-and-rich-so-don't-mess-with-me theme.

The only bubbles of originality in this melting pot of so-so beats are his occasional mentions of his ethnicity. He's Chinese, and he doesn't want his fans to forget it. His songs are peppered with mentions of how he's "like the Great Wall of China" and how he's "the only Chinese rapper."

The rare songs where he showcases his true rhyming talent are the ones with a definite narrative. "Love Story," for example, about how his parents disapproved when he started dating a black girl, is a tune with a story so good that it encourages you to actually listen. Too bad he doesn't have more to say.



The Dears

Thank You Good Night Sold Out
Maple Music Recordings
www.thedears.org

ANDREW ROSS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Live albums are often mediocre; many bands require that studio sound for an enjoyable listen.

But The Dears have a darkly fascinating sound that is actually intensified by a live performance, making their new live album *Thank You Good Night Sold Out* the perfect introduction to any Dears fan-to-be and a lovely addition to any Dears-lover's collection.

The somewhat odd mixture of keyboards, guitars, and flutes create a unique sound that blends splendidly with singer Murray A Lightburn's mesmeric vocals and charming lyrics. Although it is apparent that The Dears have many musical influences, it is equally obvious that they sound like nothing else around.

Probably the only complaint for Dears fans will be the quality of the vocals on the album. Occasionally Lightburn's voice wavers—but then, that's to be expected from any live performance. The raw feel to some of the tracks only adds to the overall energetic feel of the album. For followers of the band, this is a must have. For the inexperienced, well, what are you waiting for?



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BRETT LAMBERT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Digging Train is akin to digging Hootie & The Blowfish. They're both capable



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DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor

The honest truth about hip hop is that it normally all rests on the MCs. Sure, clever beats can help a lot, but you still need someone with a considerable verbal ability to make most hip-hop albums stand above the crowd. And sadly, that's where Vancouver act The Front falters.

of penning infectious, positive, feel-good songs with un-ironic sincerity, but damnit, if you ever admit to singing along to the odd Train or Hootie song on the radio, expect to be laughed at.

Listening to Train's *Alive at Last*, a live album recorded in Birmingham, Alabama, against all good judgment and good sense, yes, I started singing along at some points. But really, how can you not? All the hits are on here, including "Calling All Angels," "Drops of Jupiter" and "Sweet Rain."

If you're looking for an immaculately produced live album, you won't find it here. The album comes across sounding like a bootleg—as if the microphones were located in the audience—capturing the performance as it happened, flaws and all. This isn't a

Britney Spears concert.

Rapturous fans start singing along at every turn and we get to hear front man Pat Monahan laughing and poking fun at pretentious rockers—one of the more memorable points of the disc.

The high point of the evening is "Latin Interlude," where the band tries their best rendition of salsa music for nearly two minutes before losing the groove.

Two studio tracks are tacked on at the end ("Ordinary," off the *Spider-Man 2* soundtrack and "New Sensation"), but they're a tad unnecessary. They're overproduced and bloated anyways.

When the cloying sensitivity wears off, it's actually not a half-bad album. You just didn't hear that from me, okay?



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SPORTS

sports@gatewayuofalberta.ca • Thursday, 13 January, 2005

Hockey Bears look to gain stranglehold on first place

Team is undefeated in 17 conference games, but could find themselves in a tight race if they slip against the second-ranked Huskies

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

The Golden Bears hockey team may have already secured a berth in the CIS national championships in March, which they automatically get as host, and a spot in the Canada West playoffs, which they clinched prior to Christmas, but that doesn't make this weekend's series against the Saskatchewan Huskies any less important.

First, the top-ranked Bears (16-1-1) are still in a battle with the second-ranked Huskies (13-3-2) for first place overall and home-ice advantage throughout the conference playoffs.

"If you look at it from a national-tournament perspective, if you play one good game and don't play well the next night, it does you no good. You've got to play three superb games to win a national championship."

GOLDEN BEARS HEAD COACH ROB DAUM

Sitting only five points behind Alberta, the Huskies, who've also clinched a playoff spot, could pull within striking distance of first with a pair of wins this weekend—or see their hopes all but dashed with a pair of losses.

Second, the series gives the Bears a chance to face an opponent who they're quite likely to meet again in March at the CIS championship. With



FILE PHOTO: MICHAEL LEWIS

CELEBRATION TIME, COME ON The Bears hope they'll keep giving themselves reasons to cheer when the Huskies come to town this weekend.

spots for the Canada West teams in addition to the Bears, the Huskies are odds-on favourites to qualify for the tournament, so the Bears are relishing the opportunity to gain some experience against them.

"They're a very good team; I can't argue with them being ranked second," said Bears head coach Rob Daum. "They'll be a real challenge for us. ... It's something the players look forward to; they like the fierce competitiveness of these types of games."

The desire for strong competition in the lead-up to March led the Bears to host the Saint Mary's Huskies, who lead the Atlantic University Sport standings and are currently ranked third in CIS, in a pair of exhibition games at the end of December.

Alberta won both those games, and Daum said the experience was everything he'd hoped for.

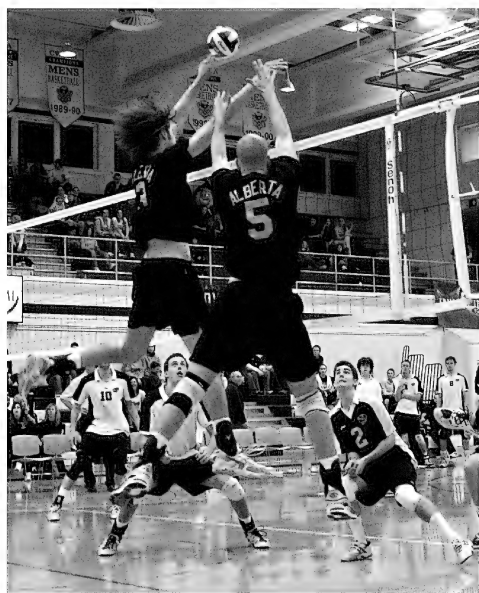
"We wanted to bring a really good team in, we knew they would be a good team, and I think it worked out really well for us," he said. "They were a good team, they played hard, and we looked at it as a dress rehearsal for the national tournament, because when you get there you play somebody good that you don't know a lot about, and Saint Mary's fit the bill perfectly."

While the Bears are virtually indisputably the best team in CIS hockey right now, they readily admit that there's plenty of room for further improvement, particularly in terms of consistency. Daum figured that his team's effort was "about 75 per cent" in a 3-3 tie against the Calgary

Dinos last weekend, a number that will have to be higher against the powerful Saskatchewan squad and throughout the rest of the year.

"If you look at it from a national-tournament perspective, if you play one good game and don't play well the next night, it doesn't do you any good," he said. "You've got to play three superb games to win a national championship."

Left-winger Ben Kilgour and centre Doug Auchenberg are injured and will be out of the lineup this weekend as the Bears try to extend their 19-game unbeaten streak (17 in conference play), as well as a twelve-game winning streak against Saskatchewan. Opening faceoff for the games is at 7:30pm Friday and Saturday nights at Clare Drake Arena.



FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

REACH FOR THE TOP The defending CIS champion Huskies will visit the Bears this weekend.

Volleyball Bears to face Huskies in first rematch of 2004 CIS final

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

The voicemail of Brian Gavlas informs callers that they've reached "the head coach of the defending Canada West and CIS men's volleyball champion Saskatchewan Huskies."

For head coach Terry Danyluk of the Golden Bears, the 2004 silver medalists who lost a tight five-set match to the Huskies in the gold-medal match, it's always a bitter sound to hear.

"I don't call him that often, but when I do it's definitely annoying, knowing how close our match was last year," said Danyluk.

Alberta's first chances to avenge that loss—they fell 16-14 in the fifth and deciding set—will come this weekend, when the third-ranked Huskies (7-3) visit the first-ranked Bears (9-1), and they intend to make the most of the opportunity.

"It definitely gives me a little bit of motivation, but I hope it gives the players a little more," said Danyluk.

If veteran middle Leo Carroll is right, Danyluk will get his wish. While there has been a great deal of turnover on both rosters this year—the Bears turned over about 45 per cent of their players, though their starting lineup is largely intact, while the Huskies have only two of their starting six from last year—Carroll said that the memory of last year is strong among this year's players.

"There's definitely some motivation there," he said. "There's been a lot of changeover from last year, but I'm sure that the young guys are picking up on the feeling."

These matches mark the Bears' return to Canada

West play following the winter break, but not their first action. They traveled to Hawaii at the end of December, where they won two matches against the University of Hawaii Rainbows, an NCAA power. And aside from the successful volleyball aspect of the trip, it was a welcome chance to escape Edmonton's winter.

"We got everything out of it that we needed, volleyball-wise, and we got to do it in a climate where we didn't need to wear parkas to the gym," said Danyluk with a chuckle.

"We had two really good games there," Carroll added. "We played really well, and we definitely want to carry that into this weekend."

The Bears were off last weekend, but the Huskies were in action against the second-ranked Trinity Western Spartans, suffering two disappointing losses. While the Bears are coming into this weekend with more momentum, Carroll said he's not sure how the Huskies' disappointing series will affect the matches with the Bears.

"I don't know if it's a benefit to us or them," he said. "They're coming off a really tough weekend, so they'll definitely want to change things around a little."

In addition to any desire for revenge on Alberta's part, this weekend's matches are important for the Canada West playoff race: half-way through the season, the Bears are currently in first place, two games ahead of the Huskies and Spartans. They have a chance to pull ahead in the standings, but two losses would pull them into a tight race.

The opening serves for the matches are scheduled for 6:30pm Friday and 8:15pm Saturday in the Main Gym.

Main Gym needs a name change

Current moniker doesn't exactly strike fear in the hearts of visiting teams



CHRIS
CLEARY

Sports
Commentary

At the midpoint of the CIS sporting season, both our volleyball and basketball teams have played host to a number of teams from across North America. At some point in the last few months, all of these teams have looked at their schedules, saw that they'd be playing Alberta at a specific date and time, and at the venue with that most intimidating of names: "The Main Gym." I'm sure that while the ninth-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies men's basketball team practiced through the holidays, they couldn't quite get the terrifying moniker out of their heads.

It's a little-known and unproven fact that when CIS basketball and volleyball teams come to play in Edmonton, sales of Pepto-Bismol skyrocket. This can only be due to the severe anxiety that the pressures of playing in Alberta's hallowed Main Gym bring to the U of A's opposition. For the young elite athlete in Canada, nothing could be worse than having to deal with the days narrowing closer and closer to what must feel like the sporting equivalent of Judgment Day. The knocking knocks and chattering teeth of the Huskies men's basketball team actually drowned out "O Canada" on Friday night. With Pepto on hand,

Huskies head coach Greg Jockims and the Huskies went on to get a 67-62 win, in spite of the uncomfirmed violent attacks that plagued the Huskies before the game.

If our teams are serious about winning, the University should get serious and provide its athletes with an atmosphere that shows they're equally serious about winning "Main Gym" doesn't even cut it at a high-school level. I expect to find a bake sale in a school's main gym, not an elite level of athletics.

Or, you know, maybe not. It's often been said that sports is 90 per cent mental and ten per cent physical; a name like Main Gym probably isn't doing what it could on the mental side. While I don't think that there will ever be a name that will cause our opponents sudden fits of nausea (unless the "We're Going to Cut Your Stomachs Open and Quarter Your Bodies In Front of Your Family Centre" ever opens its doors), the Main Gym should have a name that at

least attempts to make our competitors feel like any remote chance of victory they had was sucked out of the gym the minute they took to the floor.

The University of Alberta boasts an athletics program that's dominant or at least highly competitive in just about everything we do. The teams that play in the Main Gym (volleyball and basketball) are showing themselves to be serious CIS competitors, and an increased attendance from last season shows that people are recognizing the value of what goes on in this gym. If our teams are serious about winning, the University should get serious and provide its athletes with an atmosphere that shows they're equally serious about winning. "Main Gym" doesn't even cut it at a high-school level. I expect to find a bake sale in a school's main gym, not an elite level of athletics.

I don't think I'm asking for a lot here. The Main Gym is situated in the Van Vleet Centre; I'd rather call it that than Main Gym. Same goes for the Butterdome. Sure, the Butterdome doesn't exactly cover the Main Gym, but why be picky about this? Perhaps we could consult someone from the history and classics department, and get them to provide some sort of ancient Greek or Roman name based on a battle. That way we've got a name that's smart and still implies that our team is going to kick the other team's ass.

It would be a lot better than our current situation, where we're implying that our teams could kick the opposing teams' asses at a bake-off.

Lack of a playoff hurts NCAA football



PAUL
OWEN

Sports
Commentary

Pandas hockey notwithstanding, an undefeated season is a rare feat. The right combination of talent, hard work and luck is tough to achieve for every game of a season including playoffs. Key injuries or an off night often bring down a promising team in any sport: witness the Golden Bears' early season loss to Manitoba in hockey, or the rotten egg the football team laid against Calgary earlier in the year. An undefeated season means a championship season—except in American college football.

They say you can't put a price on a championship, but the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) has: \$26.667 million. That's how much the Sugar Bowl, Orange Bowl and Fiesta Bowl will receive each year from 2007-2010 in a new TV deal with Fox (The Rose Bowl stayed with ABC)—and that doesn't even account for the sponsorship dollars that allow them to be known as the "Nokia Sugar Bowl," "FedEx Orange Bowl" and "Tostitos Fiesta Bowl." That money gets shared among the six power conferences that participate in the BCS and the teams that play in each Bowl game.

Not a single cent will ever find its way into a player's hands, though. Instead, it will go towards yet another palace of engineering at a school like the University of Southern California, who are Associated Press, ESPN and BCS national champs this year after splitting the title last season. College players don't get paid, other than free

schooling, yet money is still the be-all and end-all in NCAA sports, and that means that instead of an exciting playoff showdown, we get the Bowl Series and a subjective means to decide who is the best.

The TV and sponsorship money is split between every school in a major conference, and the current set-up also guarantees those big conferences spots in the lucrative bowl games. Longtime rivals like Rutgers and Duke get paid to field 0-12 teams, while up-and-down powers like LSU or Oregon lack the opportunity to play for a major bowl.

College players don't get paid, other than free schooling, yet money is still the be-all and end-all in NCAA sports, and that means that instead of an exciting playoff showdown, we get the Bowl Series and a subjective means to decide who is the best.

A playoff would surely reward teams such as Utah or Boise State, who both had tremendous seasons but are affiliated with non-BCS conferences, but it would also remove the special privileges the power schools get, ergo, the major schools of college football are against it.

USC is deserving of the title, going 13-0 against a very tough schedule, but to let either people (in the case of the AP and ESPN polls) or a computer-

ized math formula (in the case of the BCS) decide that they are better than Auburn (also 13-0) or Utah (12-0) is a farce and goes against everything team sport stands for.

What happens on the field is supposed to be what decides a winner, not a bunch of computer programs designed by people who were never athletic enough to even play the game. Sportsmanship, talent and luck go out the window, and each team's fate is decided by an obscure formula that dwarfs anything physics has to offer. That may be all right for figure skating or synchronized swimming, but football tends to demand that the best team win, not the best team on paper.

The powers that be in college football refuse to give up the shocking amount of money that Fox and ABC shell out for the TV rights to the major Bowl games, and that means that teams like USC, Auburn and Utah will never get to play against one another in a playoff round. It ensures that no one can know which team is actually the best.

CIS places conference winners in Bowl games against each other, but the difference is that all conferences are represented, and the winners of the Bowl games then go on to play against one another in another bowl game. With four major Bowls, the BCS wouldn't even have to change its format, just add another three Bowls after the fact. While it doesn't address teams like California who are on the outside looking in, it would at least give the BCS the credibility of an undisputed national championship.

Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville has said that he's buying his team championship rings, as well he should. Auburn went 13-0, undefeated, and that means a championship season—except, unfortunately, in US college football.

SPORTS SHORTS

Women's Volleyball

The fourth-ranked Pandas (8-4) will host the unranked Saskatchewan Huskies (1-11) tomorrow at 1:15pm and Saturday at 6pm in the Main Gym. The Pandas are coming off of a dominant performance against the Regina Cougars (6-6) on the road last weekend, but the Huskies shouldn't be taken lightly; they surprised the tenth-ranked Trinity Western Spartans last Saturday with a five-set win for their first victory of the season.

Track and Field

The Pandas and Golden Bears will be at home this weekend to host the non-conference Golden Bear Open meet. Events begin tomorrow and continue through Sunday in the Butterdome.

Women's Basketball

The Pandas (4-6) will try to extend their surprising four-game win streak when they head down Highway 2 to Calgary for a pair of games against the Dinos (5-5) tomorrow and Saturday. Unranked Alberta is currently in ninth place in Canada West at the midpoint of the season, two points behind seventh-ranked Calgary, fifth-ranked Saskatchewan and unranked Regina,

who hold the final three playoff spots. They're also only two wins behind Victoria, UBC and Manitoba (all 6-4), who are tied for third place.

Men's Basketball

The Bears (6-4) will also travel to Calgary for Friday and Saturday games against the Dinos (6-4). The two teams are in a three-way tie for first place in the Central Division with the Saskatchewan Huskies, and a four-way tie with the UBC Thunderbirds for third overall in the conference. These are the last two meetings of the regular season for the Bears and Dinos, who split two games in Edmonton last fall, and will determine the winner of their season series. The Bears currently hold a two-point advantage over the Dinos in the series, which will determine playoff positioning if the teams remain tied at the end of the season.

Wrestling

The Golden Bears and Pandas will travel to Guelph this weekend for the University of Guelph Open, tomorrow and Saturday.

Universiade

The 2005 Winter Universiade began yesterday in Innsbruck, Austria. Eleven athletes from the U of A are representing Canada at the event.

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Volunteer Representative Required
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All members of the Gateway Student Journalism Society (any individual with 3 or more submissions in the last 240 days) are requested to attend a meeting on Friday, 14 January at 3pm in the Gateway Offices (SUB 3-04) to participate in the election from accepted nominations of a new Volunteer representative to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors.

VARSITY STATS

Men's Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Alberta	18	16	1	1	89	32	38
Calgary	16	6	7	3	37	45	15
UBC	18	5	12	4	46	84	8
Lethbridge	18	2	15	1	44	104	5

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Saskatchewan	18	13	3	2	79	49	28
Manitoba	18	10	5	3	67	45	23
Regina	18	5	11	2	47	70	12

Schedule

Friday
Calgary @ Regina 6:30pm
Manitoba @ Lethbridge 7pm
Saskatchewan @ Alberta 7:30pm

Saturday

Calgary @ Regina 6:30pm
Manitoba @ Lethbridge 7pm
Saskatchewan @ Alberta 7:30pm

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1)	6. Manitoba (5)
2. Saskatchewan (2)	7. Moncton (7)
3. Lakehead (3)	8. UPEI (8)
4. Western (4)	9. UQTR (9)
5. Saint Mary's (6)	10. McGill (10)

Women's Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Alberta	12	12	0	0	73	9	24
Regina	10	5	4	1	25	28	11
UBC	12	4	6	2	22	40	10
Lethbridge	12	3	6	3	27	41	9
Manitoba	10	3	6	1	20	35	7
Saskatchewan	12	3	8	1	25	49	7

Schedule

Friday
UBC @ Saskatchewan 6pm
Regina @ Manitoba 6pm

Saturday

UBC @ Saskatchewan 6pm	Regina @ Manitoba 6pm
------------------------	-----------------------

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1)	6. Regina (7)
2. Laurier (2)	7. Ottawa (5)
3. Guelph (4)	8. Toronto (9)
4. Concordia (6)	9. Brock (10)
5. St FX (3)	10. McGill (8)

Canada West scoring leaders

Player	Team	G	A	P
1. Danielle Bourgeois	Alb	12	15	27
2. Kristen Hagg	Alb	5	17	22
3. Tarin Podlaski	Alb	7	13	20
4. Jodi Herman	Leth	6	9	15
5. Lindsay McAlpine	Alb	8	6	14
Ts. Taryn Barry	Alb	7	7	14
Ts. Jill Chmilar	Alb	3	11	14

Women's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	P
Calgary	12	10	2	31	10	20
UBC	12	10	2	32	12	20
Winnipeg	12	8	4	29	14	16
Regina	12	6	6	19	20	12
TWU	10	3	7	17	26	6
Manitoba	10	2	8	8	24	4
Saskatchewan	12	1	11	6	35	2
Simon Fraser	12	0	12	9	36	0

Schedule

Friday
Calgary @ Manitoba 5pm
Simon Fraser @ Trinity Western 7pm

Saturday

Calgary @ Manitoba 5pm	Saskatchewan @ Alberta 6:30pm
Simon Fraser @ Trinity Western 7pm	

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Calgary (1)	6. Laval (6)
2. Sherbrooke (3)	7. Montreal (7)
3. UBC (2)	8. Toronto (10)
4. Alberta (4)	9. York (8)
5. Winnipeg (5)	10. TWU (9)

Women's Basketball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Simon Fraser	10	10	0	0	757	481	20
Winnipeg	10	10	0	0	744	539	20
UBC	10	6	4	0	698	528	12
Manitoba	10	6	4	0	778	679	12
Victoria	10	6	4	0	607	574	12
Saskatchewan	10	5	5	0	708	669	10
Regina	10	5	5	0	607	614	10
Calgary	10	5	5	0	608	626	10
Alberta	10	4	6	0	672	736	8
Lethbridge	10	2	8	0	657	749	4
Trinity Western	10	1	9	0	543	715	2
Brandon	10	0	10	0	388	797	0

Schedule

Thursday
Winnipeg @ Brandon 5:15pm
Trinity Western @ UBC 7pm

Friday

Lethbridge @ Saskatchewan 5:15pm	Manitoba @ Regina 5:15pm
Alberta @ Calgary 6pm	Trinity Western @ UBC 7:15pm

Saturday

Saturday	
Brandon @ Winnipeg 5:15pm	
Lethridge @ Saskatchewan 5:15pm	
Manitoba @ Regina 5:15pm	

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Simon Fraser (1)	6. Laval (9)
2. Winnipeg (2)	7. Calgary (5)
3. Victoria (6)	8. Manitoba (NR)
4. UBC (3)	9. Concordia (8)
5. Saskatchewan (4)	10. UCCB (7)

Men's Basketball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Calgary	10	6	4	0	779	711	12
Saskatchewan	10	6	4	0	805	775	12
Alberta	10	6	4	0	724	721	12
Lethbridge	10	2	8	0	718	798	4

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Victoria	10	8	2	0	730	676	16
UBC	10	6	4	0	757	661	12
Trinity Western	10	4	6	0	722	793	8
Simon Fraser	10	3	7	0	742	767	6

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Brandon	10	8	2	0	799	715	16
Regina	10	5	5	0	785	801	10
Manitoba	10	6	4	0	683	772	8
Winnipeg	10	2	8	0	798	849	4

Schedule

Thursday
Winnipeg @ Brandon 7:15pm
Trinity Western @ UBC 9pm

Friday

Lethbridge @ Saskatchewan 7pm
Manitoba @ Regina 7pm
Alberta @ Calgary 8pm

Saturday

Saturday
Brandon @ Winnipeg 7pm
Lethridge @ Saskatchewan 7pm
Manitoba @ Regina 7pm
Alberta @ Calgary 8pm
SFU @ Victoria 9:15pm

Men's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	P
Alberta	10	9	1	29	8	18
Saskatchewan	10	7	3	26	13	14
Trinity Western	10	7	3	25	17	14
UBC	10	6	4	22	16	12
Manitoba	10	4	6	17	20	8
Winnipeg	10	4	6	17	22	8
Calgary	10	3	7	10	24	6
Regina	10	0	10	4	30	0

Schedule

Friday	Saskatchewan @ Alberta 6:30pm
Calgary @ Manitoba 7pm	Regina @ Trinity Western 9pm

Saturday

Winnipeg @ UBC 3pm	Calgary @ Manitoba 7pm
Saskatchewan @ Alberta 8:15pm	Regina @ Trinity Western 9pm

Sunday

Winnipeg @ UBC 3pm

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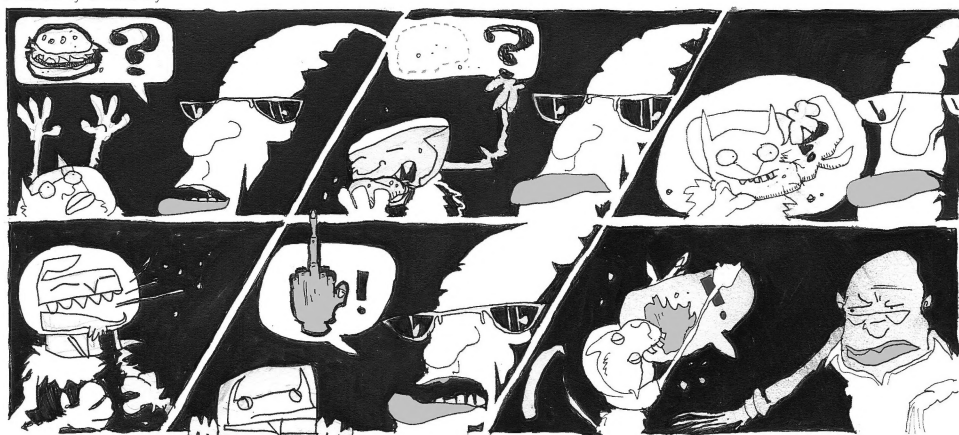
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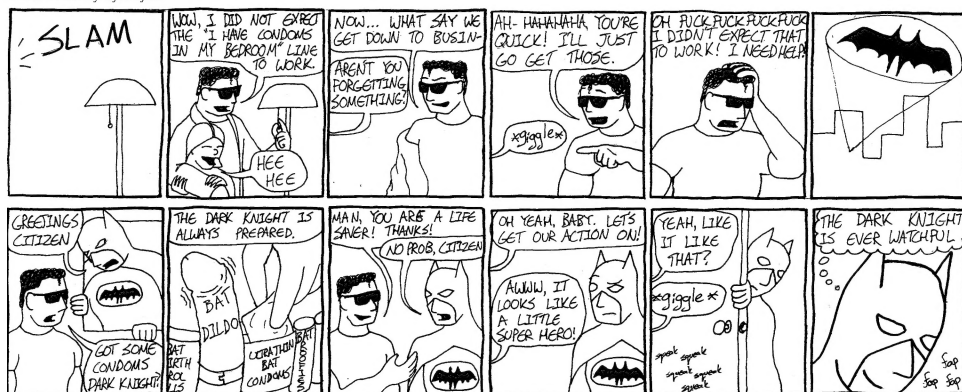
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One-bedroom condo: 9918 101st 18th floor river valley view. \$875/month utilities included. Heated underground parking. Av 1mm at 987-8753.

FOR SALE

1994 Dodge Cord, +250 000km, 6-disc CD player, minor damage to front fender. \$690. Phone 430-3597.

New 3rd-floor condo +b/k from Belvedere LRT. 2-bdrm/2-baths. AC. Two parking stalls. +undergrnd+surface. Exercise rm. \$441. 500. (780) 476-8987 agent chosen.

SERVICES

MA English grad, near campus, will edit term papers, essays. \$20/hr. Call Helen 437-2475.

EDITING SERVICES: From a client: "Thank you so much for your outstanding work on my paper. Your changes blew my mind!! I LOVE IT!! OF THE MIND. You helped me so much, not only writing beautifully but foremost, to believe in myself." 403-244-1943 www.ptediting.com

PC phone, call worldwide, 100% secure for \$5/month. Save and earn while calling unlimited worldwide 24/7. Ref code student: Carl 780-476-4798.

Ski and snowboard reading week tour to Fernie, Kildale Fernie and Castle Mtn. 21-24 Feb packages starting at \$289 call today 489-7669.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Want to study MEDICINE in Europe? www.medical-school.ca canadmin@medical-school.ca

Introductory sign language course offered, 12 evenings, runs Thursdays from 6:30pm to 9:30pm, 20 Jan to 7 Apr. For information call 492-3381, specialized support and disability services.

EMPLOYMENT-PART TIME

Child-care workers required by non-profit school-age child care program. Southwest

locations in Lendrum, Malmo and St Stanislaus schools. Available shifts 7am-9:10am and 2:30pm-6pm. Possibly more hours. Phone Dorothy or Shari at 435-4532.

Hughes Petroleum—Weekend cashiers required \$8-9/hr various positions available throughout the city. E-mail Resumé to office@hughespetroleum.com.

Lifeguard/instructor positions. Daytime/evening/weekend shifts available. Must be 18 years old and hold current NLS, WSLBC, AEC or standard first aid. Contact Serena Bushell. Ph 496-8758 or e-mail serenabushell@parkandrecplus.com.

Got an hour? Be an in-school mentor! You can be matched with an elementary student in your choice of one of 50 Catholic and public schools in Edmonton, Parkland and Strathcona. Together you can read, keep a journal, play computer games or just hang-out. You'll have a great time... and it looks GREAT on your resumé! Call Big Brothers Big Sisters today at 424-8181 or check us out online at www.bbbsedmonton.org.

2-3 PT or 1 FT technical support positions available. The job is on-campus during flexible hours. Strong knowledge of OS X is essential; Unix admin and Win admin experience an asset. Good interpersonal skills also required. Minimum 51hr job runs through the end of April with the possibility of extension through the summer (FT) and into next year. This is an excellent job for students or recent graduates, providing good experience and a varied workload. Please send resumé and references to jobs@whitematter.ca. Application deadline is 12 noon, 15 January.

ATTENTION: EDUCATION STUDENTS! Need extra cash? Private learning school in southside Edmonton seeking qualified (min. GPA 3.0) ed students to teach Bio/Chem/Maths/physics evenings. Competitive salary. E-mail resumé with cover letter to jungus@telus.net.

Non-profit out-of-school care seeks creative persons to work with school-aged children. \$8-10/hr. Call Kerri-Lynn at 434-7622, fax 486-1791, or e-mail cecilia@teuplanet.net. Come join the FUN!

PERSONALS

It's Party Time! Dial: 44-PARTY Area "Jokes" Stories & MORE! Ladies-R-Free! Try It NOW! 18+.

LINES OF DAN'S DRIVEL

If you're reading this paper fresh—that is the day it hit the stands—then it is also my birthday. Happy Birthday to me.

There isn't anything good about turning 24. Every birthday after 21 is rather depressing. Nothing exciting happens, I just get old. In the Christmas holidays of life, Christmas is over and I'm simply marching toward the inevitable return to classes of death.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ACADEMIC PLAN TOWN HALL MEETING

Dr. Carl Armhein, Vice-President (Academic) and Dr. Gary Kachanoski, Vice-President (Research) invite members of the University of Alberta community to join the consultation/planning process that will lead to a new Academic Plan.

Share your thoughts and provide your ideas at the Academic Plan Town Hall Meeting:

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2-4 P.M.
University Hall Council Chambers

For more information visit: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/academicplantoollit/

So you spent your first semester "studying" and "caring about your marks," eh?

I bet that wasn't much fun. In fact, I know something you could be doing that's at least a million times more fun than that, and it involves the newspaper you're holding in your sweaty, ink-covered hands right now.

You see, volunteering for the Gateway is a great way to develop your skills in writing, photography, or illustrating. Even if you have no experience, there's a place for you at this sexy little newspaper. Our staff is here to teach you, train you, and help you develop your talents. Plus, volunteering for the Gateway is a great way to meet like-minded people and develop life-long friendships. It's not easy meeting people if all you do is go to class and go home, and volunteering for us is a great way to broaden your university experience and learn a lot while you're at it.

See? It's fun, and it's easy, too! Just drop by our offices in 3-04 SUB anytime to find out more about volunteering for the Gateway. Or, if you already know what section you'd like to volunteer for, come to the next section meeting. Times are listed below:

News—Fridays at 3pm
Opinion—Thursdays at 4pm
Sports—Tuesdays at 5pm
Arts & Entertainment—Thursdays at 5pm
Photo—Fridays at 4pm

And, if you have any other questions, feel free to contact managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

